

The Heavens 851

Chapter 851: Breaking Into the City Pt.2

After becoming one with the city wall of the Yanlin City, he understood that he had actually acted a little too arrogantly.

His Five Element Movement Art might be a profound art that allowed him to enter any formation or restriction, but that didn't mean that no one would be able to detect his presence.

When he used his Earth Movement Art to pass through the wall, the resulting disturbance he caused attracted a Martial Sage from the Yanlin Clan.

Fortunately, he moved quickly. He started to move away from his original position and he quickly blended into the formation in order to avoid suspicion.

He then noticed that the experts in the city strengthened their control over the formation and focused even more on the walls.

Clearly, they were alerted by the sudden disturbance earlier. However, they didn't seem to think that someone had already entered the city. They felt that it was more possible that those outside were attempting to spy on them and they didn't let down their guard in the slightest.

In the foundations of the city wall, Shang Xia started to make his way into the city with his movement art. Moreover, he also discovered that their protection formation didn't just affect the city walls. The entire city was covered in it. Never mind the earth beneath the city, but if he tried to emerge from the ground below, he might be detected immediately.

Not giving up, Shang Xia continued to travel through the earth. He discovered their underwater water vein and he unleashed his Water Movement Art in order to look for a well opening leading to the surface.

However, there was also a layer of barrier above the water surface, but the problem couldn't stop Shang Xia for long.

That was because he discovered a chain extending down into the well and he silently utilized his Metal Movement Art to travel along the chain all the way till he discovered a pile of firewood. There, he utilized his Wood Movement Art to travel along it until he found an open flame. Finally unleashing his Fire Movement Art, he appeared as a spark before transforming back into himself. He entered the vast sea of people in the city.

Several divine wills silently swept across the well and its surroundings, but they failed to discover anything.

Shang Xia's continuous utilization of his movement art might have drawn some suspicion, but the person controlling the formation couldn't follow his strange transformations at all. They eventually chalked it up to a disturbance in essence qi in the surrounding area.

Finally, Shang Xia appeared openly in the streets of the city.

When Kou Chongxue and the rest brought the Martial Dipper Realm and Martial Extermination Realm experts over, Shang Xia had basically scouted out the situation. He even determined the greatest weakness in the formation.

Unfortunately, it was also the most heavily guarded region in the city. It was also surrounded by many types of additional restrictions, and it would be difficult for Shang Xia to infiltrate it using his Five Element Movement Art.

By the time the experts in the Yanlin City prepared to defend itself against those outside its walls, Shang Xia returned to the vicinity of the city walls.

At the same time, his divine will captured 2 more distinct auras of Martial Sages in the city.

The Yanlin Clan had clearly hidden experts in their holy land, and they had 2 more of them! One of their auras was comparable to an expert in the fourth element of the Martial Dipper Realm and the other was comparable to a third element Martial Dipper Realm expert.

Perhaps it might be because of the strengthened formation, they didn't bother concealing their auras. Of course, it might also be to boost the confidence of the other experts in the city.

That was precisely how Shang Xia discovered the strangeness with the 2 of them who just appeared.

The aura around the expert who was comparable to a fourth element Martial Dipper Realm expert was alternating and it seemed as though he was at his peak state the moment and he was experiencing a state of weakness the next.

However, the other expert's aura was even worse. It was a mess and Shang Xia was no stranger to the chaotic feeling in the expert's body. It was the symptoms of someone whose fate dippers were in imbalance!

It was a shame they were separated by the city walls and the grand formation. Shang Xia had no way of conveying the message to those outside.

The person in charge of controlling the formation seemed to be affected by the happenings outside, and he no longer cared too much about the happenings in the city. He wouldn't think that the true problem lay within the city and not outside!

Shang Xia acted decisively as he entered the city walls with his Earth Movement Art again.

Even though the city walls were basically fused with the protection formation, the attention of the expert controlling their grand formation was on those outside the city. Shang Xia also knew that after using many elements of his Five Element Movement Art, they couldn't catch on to his tracks at all. In fact, they might not even know what was happening.

The slight disturbance that Shang Xia created that was overlooked, was the real killing blow that ended the Yanlin Clan.

When the Clan Leader of the Yanlin Clan, whose cultivation was comparable to a fifth element Martial Dipper Realm expert of the Azure Ascension World projected his voice to those outside in an attempt to learn about their true motive while dragging things out a little, Shang Xia started to circulate his Five Element Dipper Qi to disrupt the formation. A portion of the protective barrier along the city walls turned chaotic.

He also took the chance to direct the Wu Earth and Ji Earth Elements to the best of his ability. A giant portion of the city wall that spanned 300 feet or so that was covered in the protection formation crumbled!

The same second that happened, Yifeng roared with laughter outside the city. “Mister Xinyang from the Zhenyang Gate, looks like the immature little brat you’re talking about still possesses some true skill!”

Cao Xinyang didn’t think that he would be slapped in the face so quickly. The walls collapsed right after he spoke...

Even though he was a Martial Dipper Realm expert, his face alternated between green and white and he found it a little difficult to find his way out of the embarrassing situation.

The Martial Sages in the city weren’t exactly useless. They didn’t just let the wall crumble and their protection formation be destroyed.

The instant the walls crumbled, the Formation Grandmaster in the city responded. Dense essence qi appeared from both sides that still stood and formed some sort of illusory barrier. It created a wall from essence qi and tried to seal up the gap.

“We can’t allow the gap to close!” Kou Chongxue and the others emerged from the void that very instant. This time, Lu Wuzi was in the lead as his mirror shot towards the entrance before they arrived.

They made use of the mirror to hide their aura earlier, and they clearly wanted to confuse the experts in the city. The moment the opening was created, Lu Wuzi no longer bothered to hide their tracks. He used his mirror to stop the opening from closing!

Enraged cries came from the skies above the Yanlin City as Yanlin Zongheng reached out to grab at the void. The Yanlin Clan’s Ninth Heaven Divine Weapon, the Myriad Spirit Banner, appeared in his hand. He swung it violently at the outsiders!

A dense miasma emerged from the banner and sparkled magnificently under the sunlight as it rushed at the experts of the Azure Ascension World.

How could Kou Chongxue, who had been spying on them for so long, not know about their divine weapon?

The second the Myriad Spirit Banner appeared, 20 more Martial Dipper Realm experts from the Azure Ascension World appeared from the void and made 4 squads of 5 as they protected their formation masters.

The miasma arrived, and the experts of the Azure Ascension World felt it slowly corroding their protection barrier.

Fortunately, they could help each other after successfully forming their battle formation. Drawing on each other’s strength, they could greatly reduce the impact of the miasma.

Those rushing towards the wall weren’t exactly planning to hold out against the miasma without doing anything either. After supporting his Halo Mirror to maintain the opening in the wall, Lu Wuzi yelled, “Kou Chongxue!”

A sword light tore open the miasma in the air. With his Origin Yang Sword Qi and the power of the Hidden Frost Sword, Kou Chongxue tore open a path into the city and widened the opening. Their protection formation that fused with the city walls, might have been able to withstand a palm strike

from Xun Yingsheng and Tian Jun's sword art, but it couldn't stop Kou Chongxue's Origin Yang Sword Qi!

Facing the sudden appearance of the sword qi, Yanlin Zongheng's expression changed. He might not have seen Kou Chongxue killing Chen Baixing above the heavenly screen, but he heard about it from the Martial Sages who participated.

The sword qi might have been greatly weakened after widening the opening, but Yanlin Zongheng knew that he needed to give it his all if he wished to stop it. He even stopped his connection to the Myriad Spirit Banner from emitting miasma and he waved it in the direction of the incoming sword qi.

Kou Chongxue never intended to use the sword qi to defeat Yanlin Zongheng, and he merely wanted to hold the clan leader off for a moment.

With the experts of the Azure Ascension World firmly holding the upper hand in terms of numbers, Kou Chongxue who had yet to really return to the peak of his abilities wouldn't choose to go all out against his enemy if he didn't need to!

The moment they closed in on the opening, Yifeng used his movement art to enter the city.

The second he passed through, Shang Xia's voice rang in his mind. "Be careful, there are 4 Martial Dipper Realm experts in the city. They're of the fifth element, fourth element, third element, and first element!"

The fifth element Martial Dipper Realm expert equivalent was held down by Kou Chongxue, and the first layer was someone who lost a clone back during the battle. The other 2 were the ones Shang Xia discovered. They had probably hidden in their holy land after realizing their cultivation ran into problems.

Yifeng's heart trembled slightly, and he didn't bother asking Shang Xia where he was. The sword qi in his hand erupted with great fervor and they quickly formed a massive layer that was like a sword qi shield before him!

As if on cue, an orange light slammed into Yifeng who was the first to enter the city.

The orange light had been storing energy for some time, but Yifeng was no slouch. He was prepared the moment he heard Shang Xia's reminder. Both of them were experts of the same level, and Yifeng was in the fourth element of the Martial Dipper Realm. Even though they were supposed to be evenly matched, Yifeng seemed to fall to a disadvantage!

It wasn't because Yifeng wasn't a match for his opponent, but it was because the other party held a geographical advantage!

A hole might have been blown through the protection formation, but that didn't mean that the formation collapsed!

Yifeng might be at a disadvantage, but it took more than that to defeat the annoying freak.

Behind him, 3 Martial Dipper Realm experts poured out from the opening and arrived in the city the next moment!

Chapter 852: 500 Years of Foundations

Yifeng was nearly injured even though he received Shang Xia's reminder, and due to the strong impact, his mind turned hazy for a moment. It wasn't just because of the suppression of the grand formation. It was also because of the rejection from the Azure Flame World's Will.

With the layers of debuffs stacked on top of each other, Yifeng felt that more than 30 percent of his strength had been restrained. He felt extremely fortunate that he wasn't actually hurt by the strike earlier.

Fortunately, the 3 Martial Dipper Realm experts appeared soon after and assisted him in holding their ground.

If that was the Yifeng of the past, there was no way he would be willing to work together with the others. He wouldn't accept their help either. However, in his current situation, he couldn't help but join forces with those who just appeared.

It was then that a loud crack was heard as one of the 2 light rings around the Halo Mirror shattered.

Soon after, Lu Wuzi's flustered yell came from outside the city. "Kou Chongxue, give me world origin!"

After confirming their plan to attack the Yanlin City, the experts of the Azure Ascension World split their troops up. A group of them would cause a Beast Tide to force the Yanlin Clan to split their strength up. Next, the experts would split into groups of 3. Around 10 of them led the Formation Grandmasters in the direction of the city. Kou Chongxue and Yifeng would take the lead in sieging the city while the rest of their group would be concealed by Lu Wuzi's Halo Mirror. They would take action once the formation was dealt with. The others were led by Jiu Du to linger around the city to prevent ambush from any reinforcements who might arrive.

There was also another reason for the somewhat even plot of manpower. That was because Kou Chongxue's Origin Holy Artifact could only provide 10 of them with enough world origin from the Azure Ascension World!

Of course, that was what Kou Chongxue said... After all, he was the one controlling the Origin Holy Artifact and his word was law.

What they couldn't deny was the fact that the Azure Flame World's Will would be able to suppress their fighting abilities by close to 20 percent if they didn't have the support of the Origin Holy Artifact.

With it, they would be able to display 90 percent of their combat capabilities. The suppression was still there, but it was a lot weaker. 10 percent might not seem like a lot, but it could decide a lot of matters.

For example, Lu Wuzi looked like he merely lost 10 percent of his combat strength, but another one of his light rings was easily shattered by the protection formation.

The damage he suffered was much more than when he was at the heavenly screen. His true essence was damaged, and he spat out mouthfuls of blood without stopping. He had no choice but to call for Kou Chongxue to increase the support of world origin.

Kou Chongxue was trying to stop the Yanlin Zongheng, their peak-tier powerhouse, but after hearing the yell, he merely hesitated for a moment before adjusting a strand of world origin to support Lu Wuzi.

The moment he received the assistance of world origin, Lu Wuzi seemed to have replenished a good portion of his energy and the strained look on his face disappeared.

Qing Pingzi noticed what happened to Lu Wuzi and he quickly approached, "Martial Ancestor, are you still alright?"

Glaring at him from the corner of his eye, along with several others who were present, he growled, "What are you still doing here?! Hurry up and enter the city!"

Lu Wuzi might be speaking to those before him, but his gaze landed on someone specific.

Han Mo gritted his teeth before cupping his fists respectfully. "Yes."

His figure soon passed the opening in the formation.

With a slight look of embarrassment, Qing Pingzi wanted to say something else. However, Lu Wuzi interrupted, "Jian Yingzi, you stay behind and protect me. Everyone else, enter the city! The city contains the foundation of the Yanlin Clan that spans hundreds of years. Haven't you realized that the brat from the Tongyou Institution hadn't shown up even after getting rid of the protection formation?"

From the looks of it, Yanlin City was bound to fall.

The moment the experts of the Azure Ascension World entered and occupied the city, the foundations of the Yanlin Clan which had been accumulating for hundreds of years, would belong to them.

Under such circumstances, other than the holy land which they couldn't actually bring away, everything would belong to whoever grabbed it first!

No one knows how 'that brat' from the Tongyou Institution infiltrated the city and how much information Kou Chongxue managed to gather in the past. They were afraid everything of value in the city would be the kid's goal.

With Lu Wuzi's reminder, Qing Pingzi and Yin Lingzi rushed into the city behind Han Mo.

"Outsiders, what's the reason for this?! Why are you attacking us?" Yanlin Zongheng's enraged roar came from the skies above the city. He was still held down by Kou Chongxue, and he could do nothing but scream.

The number of experts who entered the city increased by the second as Lu Wuzi maintained the final ring of light around the opening.

Even though their combat strength was suppressed even further after entering the city, they had an absolute advantage in terms of numbers! They quickly resisted the desperate counter attack of the Yanlin Clan.

As the battle raged on, structures in the city collapsed and so did many parts of their protective formation.

The experts of the Azure Ascension World didn't immediately gain the upper hand after entering the city. That was because the sheer number of experts in the Third and Fourth Order of the Primary Realm were also desperately defending the grand formation. They actually managed to cause some trouble for the Martial Dipper Realm experts who just entered.

Of course, it was merely slightly more troublesome to deal with it.

After all, the number of Martial Dipper Realm experts the Azure Ascension World sent was easily 5 times more than the number of Martial Sages in the city!

Fortunately, the Azure Ascension World destroyed a portion of the city wall at the start. Otherwise, the Yanlin Clan would be able to hold out for quite a long time with their special defenses.

The longer they took, the more variables in their plan!

When Kou Chongxue and the others arrived in the Yanlin City, the experts of the clan already used some special methods to contact the Martial Sages they sent to stop the Beast Tide from returning.

Unfortunately, they were quickly intercepted by Jiu Du and the others. Those who were sent to request reinforcements from the other continents were also stopped along their way by the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Azure Ascension World.

Of course, news of the Yanlin Clan coming under attack couldn't be hidden for long. It started to spread among the great powers of the other continents.

The source of the news was extremely direct. It was from the experts above the heavenly screen.

There were hundreds of Martial Extermination Realm experts and dozens of Martial Dipper Realm experts from the Azure Ascension World who entered the Southern Yanlin Continent. The experts of the Azure Flame World wouldn't just let them do whatever they wished without keeping an eye on them!

However, they had no idea what the true goal of those outsiders was. They never thought that they would be so familiar with the Azure Flame World and neither would they have thought that the outsiders would take such decisive actions under Kou Chongxue's leadership.

Of everything they didn't think of, the greatest surprise came when they noticed how the protection formation around the Yanlin City was breached in an instant.

That was also the reason why even if the other powers wanted to provide assistance, they wouldn't be able to coordinate with the other factions and gather enough experts in time.

What was made more obvious by the battle was the fact that there was no single faction in the Azure Flame World who had the ability to resist the outsiders!

If they really wanted to eliminate the group of outsiders, they would need to gather the entire strength of their world! They would need to make countless adjustments, but too bad for them, the Yanlin Clan failed to buy them enough time!

More than 15 Martial Dipper Realm experts poured into the city by that point and no matter how hard the cultivators of the Yanlin Clan resisted, they were being pushed back forcefully. Their losses were severe, and it was especially so for the low-level cultivators within the city.

With a long whistle, Kou Chongxue's sword light stopped Yanlin Zongheng who was trying to retreat. Soon after, a second opening tore through the city wall. Kou Chongxue pointed his sword at Yanlin Zongheng and growled, "Are you really planning to send every single member of your clan to their death by resisting till the end?"

Yanlin Zongheng was on the brink of collapse and he roared angrily, “What exactly are you outsiders up to?! What do you want?! You are the ones who eliminated the 500 years of foundation of my Yanlin Clan...”

Kou Chongxue stared at Yanlin Zongheng whose emotions were extremely unstable at the moment and frowned. The situation that was playing out wasn't something he wanted to see. No matter how hard Yanlin Zongheng struggled, he wouldn't be able to last till their reinforcements arrived. However, it was possible for him to destroy the entire city. That wasn't part of Kou Chongxue's plan. He needed a near complete grand formation in order to get ready for their next phase.

Shang Xia sneakily arrived at the core region of the Yanlin City by the time everything had played out.

The situation was clear in his eyes. It was a matter of time before the fourth soul Martial Sage of the Yanlin Clan would no longer be able to fight. Even if Yifeng and the rest didn't kill him, he would experience cultivation deviation due to the imbalance of his Martial Souls and meet his end.

It was the other third soul Martial Sage who caught Shang Xia's attention. From the time he emerged from the Yanlin Holy Land, he had hidden himself. He concealed his aura completely despite the city being breached. Shang Xia couldn't be more curious about what was going on.

Shang Xia was headed straight into the core region in order to deal with their Formation Grandmaster while preserving the protection formation to the best of his abilities. He also needed to look for the entrance to the Yanlin Holy Land and sweep away the resistance within to prevent Yanlin Zongheng from going crazy at the last second and destroying the secret region their Holy Land was contained in.

As he entered the core region, he heard a loud yell. “... What are you still messing about for?! We won't be able to protect the city anymore! Hurry up and leave!”

“I won't leave! The moment I leave, the grand formation will no longer operate! Only with me here will we be able to buy some time. When that happens, reinforcements...”

“There won't be any reinforcements!” The loud voice interrupted the person who was speaking. “No one will be here to save us! Bring our disciples from the later generation and leave through the hidden passage! Meet up with Fifth, Eighth, and Sixteenth Elders who are down south stopping the beast Beast Tide! In the future, our Yanlin Clan will have hopes of rising again!”

“Twelfth Uncle, you...”

“Hehe... I'm pretty much a cripple at this point. I won't be able to leave with you. I'll stay behind and drag those outsiders to death with me! Yanlin Zongheng is a fool! He even chose to send people down south to stop the Beast Tide even after learning that the powerful outsiders entered our continent! Even if we use our toes to think, we'll know that they're scheming something! Half the reason we're being destroyed today is because of him!”

“Twelfth Uncle...”

“Leave, hurry up and leave! Scram!”

Chapter 853: 500 Years of Foundations Pt.2

“Who?!”

While listening to their conversation, Shang Xia had been making his way closer with his Five Element Movement Art.

No one knew if it was because he was getting overconfident because everything went smoothly in the past, or because he was too close to the core region, but the acute senses of their Formation Grandmaster managed to catch a whiff of him.

Shang Xia’s heart sank and he grumbled silently. “Oh shit!”

Of course, as things stood, there was no way for him to leave. He could only barge in forcefully and raise countless alarms as he entered deep into the core region. He finally arrived on a triple platform that was filled with runes.

The first platform was completely filled with runes and the second contained several cultivators who seemed like Formation Masters who were busy with something. They seemed to be arranging and modifying the formation in the city in real time.

On the highest platform, 2 experts were present and they were the Martial Sages in charge of activating the formation.

One of them emitted a dense aura of corrosion as though he was some rotting piece of meat someone dug up from the ground somewhere. Right opposite him was an expert who looked to be in his thirties with wrinkles covering his forehead.

Shang Xia overheard their conversation earlier and the expert who looked to be in his thirties was the one who discovered Shang Xia.

Shang Xia’s arrival on the platform shocked both of them. With the entire Yanlin Clan resisting the outsiders with all their might using their grand formation, the Martial Sages had no idea how someone managed to appear right before them!

The wrinkled cultivator seemed to have thought of something and he pointed at Shang Xia in shock. “It’s you! You were the one who destroyed the city walls!”

The experts of the Yanlin Clan had always been extremely confused by the fact that a portion of their wall collapsed. If it hadn’t crumbled so suddenly, they might have reacted in time and prepared their defenses against the outsiders who were charging their way.

Now, everything has come to light. For someone to arrive on the platform after passing through layers of formation and the core region itself, destroying a part of the city walls should be a piece of cake.

The wrinkled expert wanted to make his move, but the cultivator who emitted a rotting aura grabbed him and yelled, “Leave!”

“He’s someone who just broke into the Martial Sage Realm...” Before the wrinkled Martial Sage could complete his sentence, he was met with another roar. A frightening aura emerged from the rotting cultivator and his Martial Souls seemed to fuse into 1 above him. He seemed to return to his peak state from whatever he was earlier.

“Twelfth Uncle...” The wrinkled cultivator knew that since the elder was awakened, he wouldn’t have much time left in the world.

However, for a grand third soul Martial Sage to sacrifice himself for a mere newbie...

Is Twelfth Uncle really unable to hold on any longer?

The thought flashed in the wrinkled cultivator's mind and turned his gaze to the newcomer. Even if the newbie Martial Sage could defy all odds and block an all-out attack from a third soul Martial Sage, he was still there! The outsider would die for sure!

As such, he was in no rush to escape. Instead, he continued to operate the formation to buy more time for those evacuating the city!

Planting his feet firmly onto the ground, he turned to stare at the outcome of the exchange between his Twelfth Uncle and the newbie.

At that moment, the rotting elder also realized that the wrinkled cultivator wasn’t following his instructions. However, he couldn’t be bothered any longer. He stared at the outsider before him and understood that even though the outsider seemed like he just stepped into the Martial Sage Realm, things wouldn’t be so simple.

A chill ran down his spine the next moment as he understood that the Yanlin Clan didn’t meet its demise due to the dumb luck of those outsiders. They actually had the ability to do it!

Unfortunately, he was no longer capable of giving a reminder to the expert behind him. That was because he had to release everything in his final attack!

He only hoped that the feeling he had earlier about how the outsider possessed some sort of unfathomable strength was wrong. As long as the outsider was killed by his final strike that he had stored for the past tens of years, it would be alright! At the very least, he wanted to at least heavily injure the other party!

When his Martial Souls were forcefully fused into one, a brilliant light emerged from them as it turned into a stream of flame that passed through the void and flew at Shang Xia.

That was an attack he staked everything on!

Shang Xia knew that he couldn’t retreat easily. Otherwise, he would be suppressed by the other side. After all, their grand formation was still active and they had another expert standing by at the side! His life might even be under threat! After all, he was deep in enemy territory alone and there was no way he could receive help from the rest!

Facing the ultimate strike from a third soul Martial Sage, Shang Xia pushed his Five Element Origin to the limit. Five Element Dipper Qi that seemed partially solid rushed out from his body

and with the enhancement from his Five Element Ring, they transformed into a five colored light that spun around him before rushing up to meet the stream of fire.

Watching the 2 different dipper qi clashing in the void before him, an unprecedented look of seriousness appeared on Shang Xia's face.

He was absolutely certain that even if a single spot of flame touched him, it would burn through his body completely and deal him severe injuries.

With Shang Xia resisting it with all his might, the clash became a battle of who had more dipper qi!

Clearly, the rotting expert knew that he had lost now that things had progressed up to that point. After all, he couldn't do anything in a battle of attrition.

"Go to hell!" The wrinkled Martial Sage determined that Shang Xia no longer had the ability to resist at the moment as he leaped at his enemy with a sinister and excited smile on his face.

The rotting expert closed his eyes in pain as he couldn't move a muscle. *Idiot! Why didn't you run?!*

The final bit of vitality left his body as the only thing left in it was a trace of his divine will.

Shang Xia, who just obtained the upper hand, frowned lightly and tapped the Five Element Ring before him lightly.

Buzz...

Amidst a brilliant burst of light, the illusory Reversal Five Element Ring emerged from the weapon. It stopped the sneak attack before wrapping around the Martial Sage, trapping him on the platform!

"No... Twelfth Uncle, save me!" The wrinkled cultivator didn't expect himself to be so useless against his opponent and he was suppressed in a single move. He couldn't help but scream for help.

Unfortunately, all he heard was a sigh that contained nothing but despair.

Under his gaze, his Twelfth Uncle who was comparable to a real expert among the outsiders who invaded them, turned into a pile of ash. He dissipated into the wind along with the phenomenon of his energy returning to the world.

"Twelfth Uncle..." He stared at the ash flying in the wind and forgot to struggle for a single second.

Shang Xia sighed softly as a show of respect for the man who gave himself up for the sake of his clan.

As for the wrinkled cultivator, Shang Xia merely shot him a glance before realizing that he wouldn't be able to break free. He then turned his gaze towards the second platform.

With his powerful divine will arriving, anyone not in the Fourth Order of the Primary Realm couldn't put up the slightest resistance as they were pressed firmly into the ground. Those Formation Grandmasters who reached the Fourth Order might be able to resist, but they didn't dare to make any rash moves.

A good portion of them were Formation Grandmasters the Yanlin Clan nurtured, and Shang Xia didn't want to carry out a wanton massacre. After all, after they took control of the Yanlin Holy Land, they would need to remain in the city for some time. When that happened, those Formation Grandmasters might come into play.

To prevent any accidents from happening, Shang Xia sealed the dantians of those Martial Ancestors before sending those weaker into a comatose state.

The second Shang Xia attacked the core region, the grand formation around the city started to weaken and the experts of the Yanlin Clan fell into disarray.

Those in the Azure Ascension World who joined the all-out battle in the city were mostly Martial Dipper Realm experts, and they were greatly restrained by many factors. They weren't willing to go all out and kill anyone they saw and were merely pushing the experts of the Yanlin Clan back the best they could. Because of their restraint, they only managed to occupy a third of the city.

Now that the grand formation was no longer active, the first to react weren't the experts of the Yanlin Clan. Instead, it was the experts of the Azure Ascension World.

One of them released their divine will in an unrestrained manner and no one under the Martial Ancestor Realm would be able to resist its power. Even Martial Ancestors would find it hard to fight back and any cultivator who had half a brain from the Yanlin Clan started to make their escape.

The main goal of the experts of the Azure Ascension World was only focused on preserving the grand formation at that point and they really didn't care about those escaping.

It was then that Yanlin Zongheng decided to run after no longer receiving the buff from the grand formation.

In order to occupy the city, the experts of the Azure Ascension World might be willing to let Yanlin Zongheng leave. However, that was if he tried to run at the very start. With victory in their hands, Kou Chongxue and the others wouldn't let a peak-tier existence at that level leave easily.

Chapter 854: Getting Backdoored

The factions in the Azure Flame World thought that with their hundreds of years of foundations, even if the Yanlin City came under attack by the outsiders, they would be able to defend themselves for several days at the very least.

None of them would have thought that the day the outsiders entered the Azure Flame World would be the day the Yanlin City fell!

Above the heavenly screen were many experts from the other continents who were watching the events unfold.

All of them wanted to watch the Yanlin Clan embarrass themselves and they were gloating at their downfall, but the second the city fell, a sense of unease crept up the hearts of the various outsiders.

With the exception of Martial Ancestors who had been sent out to relay the news, there were at least 6 Martial Sages who tore through the skies to arrive at the heavenly screen as they tried to rush to the Southern Yanlin Continent to provide support.

Due to the difference in distance above and below the heavenly screen, the experts of the Azure Flame World would find it a little difficult to pinpoint their location. Even though those experts who wanted to provide reinforcements entered the Southern Yanlin Continent, they were scattered all around. Fortunately, they managed to arrive 1000 miles of the Yanlin City.

However, they were quickly intercepted by the experts of the Azure Ascension World and weren't allowed to come close.

As for those who returned to relay the news... The events that happened, along with the fall of Yanlin City, shocked the experts of the various factions.

Even though there were still some who were afraid of the strength the outsiders displayed, there were still many experienced and knowledgeable individuals in the Azure Flame World. They knew that they had to stabilize the situation in the Southern Yanlin Continent before they tried anything else. Among them was the clan leader of the Yuancang Clan of the Eastern Nuanyuan Continent, Yuancang Ming. He was also an expert standing at the peak of the Martial Sage Realm.

When he flew past the heavenly screen and arrived in the air above the Southern Yanlin Continent, he noticed a pillar of light locking Yanlin Zongheng in place before 2 different rays of sword light swirling around him...

Despite his powerful cultivation, he felt a mysterious aura rapidly approaching. Even though it didn't feel as strong as himself, he felt a slight sense of threat when the expressionless figure approached and blocked his path.

Huang Jinghan of the Yuanchen Sect arrived to stop him! An expert at the fourth element of the Martial Dipper Realm had come!

...

Above the seas thousands of miles from the Yanlin City, debris was floating about the water's surface. It was clear to all that a massive battle had just taken place from the destruction strewn about and the massive waves that were billowing.

Dozens of Martial Extermination Realm experts from the Azure Ascension World were busy gathering the spoils of war.

Not too far away, the 4 Martial Extermination Realm experts from the Tongyou Institution were standing on a somewhat worn-out boat that was barely staying afloat. They were staring down the other Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Azure Ascension World.

"All of us worked together to achieve victory, and we should split the spoils of war among all of us. It's not right for you guys to be acting like this, right?" A sparse haired middle-aged cultivator stood on the deck of the ship facing the experts of the institution. A deep frown could be seen on his face, but he still seemed a little afraid of those standing against him. Even so, he didn't sound like he was going to give in.

The Martial Extermination Realm experts in the surroundings might not have said anything, but they seemed to have the same intention as him.

“Chirp!” A loud cry came from the skies above and thunder started to rumble in the densely packed clouds above. A large bird whose wingspan extended several feet wide flew down from the heavens and landed on the mast of the ship.

Sun Haiwei’s gaze landed on the item in the bird’s claws, and a smile formed on her face.

When the Martial Extermination Realm experts standing around noticed the bird who was exuding an air of majesty, looks of fear appeared on their faces.

Sun Haiwei chuckled the next second. “Everyone, my Tongyou Institution will only take this flying ship from the battle. We won’t take anything else.”

The Martial Extermination Realm experts glanced at each other and eventually, the sparse haired cultivator muttered, “Alright. Let’s do that!”

After they reached their conclusion, the Martial Extermination Realm experts started to leave and they seemed to be in a haste to run away.

Sun Haiwei forced a smile and looked at the other 3. “Let’s hope that this ship that can maintain flight for a short while will be helpful for Instructor Chu...”

Tian Mengzi added, “It should probably be of use. After all, the ship isn’t exactly empty... Those treasures stored within can be considered an additional benefit for us.”

Dou Zhong suddenly added at the side, “I wonder what the situation is like in the Yanlin City now...”

Compared to the other 3, Yan Ming seemed a lot more curious about the ship they were on. She stared at it and asked, “This ship is actually massive... Will we be able to transport it back in one piece?”

...

The mirror that was hovering above the Yanlin City was filled with cracks at that point and Lu Wuzi spat out a mouthful of blood. “Kou Chongxue, there’s only one thing I’m going to do next! I’m going to focus on my recovery!”

The final ring of light emitted by the mirror shattered and even though Lu Wuzi hadn’t lost a clone, he suffered heavy injuries.

Kou Chongxu appeared from the sealed space created by the mirror and replied, “Lu Wuzi, fortunately, you were there to help us prevent the shockwaves of the battle from spreading to the rest of the city.”

Yifeng also leaped out from the sealed space with a look of contemplation on his face. “Hey, don’t you think that the clan leader was acting a little weird?”

Heh... As if you’re a normal person...

“He could have escaped back then, but he didn’t!” Xiong Yuanfeng of the Hengling Sect also took part in the battle against Yanlin Zongheng, and he had a huge wound that seemed to split his body in half. However, he didn’t seem too concerned about the injury. He continued, “Even with Senior Lu Wuzi sealed off a region of space with

his Halo Mirror, he should have been able to break through the area with his strength. Even destroying half the city shouldn't pose too much of a problem to him. However, he chose to go all out against us, hoping to drag one of us to death with him. He chose not to flee, and he didn't try saving any of his clansmen either. As a clan leader, his actions are indeed strange."

Ancestor Hao Yun of the Great Observation Sect was the last to emerge from the sealed space. He turned his gaze to Kou Chongxue and asked, "I wonder what Patriarch Kou feels about the situation?"

"Hehe..." Kou Chongxue didn't seem too concerned about it. "Don't think too much about it. He probably fried his brains by too much cultivation."

Kou Chongxue seemed to have said it extremely casually, but none of them thought that he was making a joke.

Yun Jingzi's soft sigh came from the side. "Is it an imbalance of his origins? Could it actually affect a cultivator's mental state?"

Yifeng and Lu Wuzi fell into silence. An unprecedented look of solemnity appeared on Yifeng's face.

Kou Chongxue swept his gaze across those present and mumbled in a profound voice, "An imbalance of origin isn't the only problem in the path of cultivation!"

All of them wanted to ask more. After all, there was only 1 person among them who managed to refine 5 fate dippers and reached the edge of the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm. None of the rest present were lacking in resources of fate dippers. With their status and strength, if they really wanted to take another step forward in their path of cultivation, they could easily gather all the resources they needed from their faction.

However, none of them had the guts to take the last step! Even Lu Wuzi, Yifeng, Jiu Du, and other existences at the fourth element of the Martial Dipper Realm were afraid to try.

What was the reason?!

Naturally, it was because they were unable to get over the risk of an imbalance in their fate dippers and enter a state of cultivation deviation!

Now that Kou Chongxue said that an imbalance of fate dippers wasn't the only problem that might appear during their cultivation, that would mean...

That meant that Kou Chongxue not only found other problems during his path of cultivation, but he managed to solve them to a certain extent to reach his current level!

The most obvious sign was the fact that he was at the large completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm. He only needed to take another step to reach the grand completion stage!

In the thousands of years of inheritances in the Azure Origin World, Azure Spiritual World, and the current Azure Ascension World that was the combination of the both of them, it wasn't as though no one had reached the fifth element of the Martial Dipper Realm. Of the 4 Elysiums, they definitely had existences who reached that level.

From the records and experiences they left behind in the fourth and fifth element of the Martial Dipper Realm, most of them were mere speculations or things they achieved by pure luck. Not a single proper way of advancement could be found.

As such, one could only imagine the feeling running through their heart when they heard what Kou Chongxue said.

Of course, they also knew that there was no way Kou Chongxue would continue to teach them what he learned. After all, it was an extremely well-guarded secret.

Many of them wanted to learn more, but they knew better than to ask.

Bang!

A massive blast erupted from the core of the city, attracting the attention of the Martial Dipper Realm experts standing in the air.

“There... The core of the city! Oh no!” Yun Lingzi yelled, but before the words fully left his lips, a five colored dipper qi appeared to stop the explosion.

“Shang Xia, what do you want?!” An enraged cry came from the core of the city as 3 sorry figures stumbled out from the sea of five colored dipper qi.

Yun Lingzi’s pupils constricted and he mumbled, “It’s Qing Pingzi and the rest, Martial Uncle...”

Lu Wuzi raised his hand to stop Yun Lingzi before turning to look at Kou Chongxue.

A light flashed in Kou Chongxue’s eyes, but he looked extremely relaxed.

It was then that a clear voice rang through the city. “Hehe, The Northern Sea Mystic Sect wants to fish for benefits in a situation like this, and even sent a scapegoat out here to mess with me! If not for my help, would he be able to stay alive? What’s the matter? Are you guys trying to return my favor with enmity?”

“You...”

Kou Chongxue chuckled lightly in response. “Those juniors there are just messing around and they don’t know what’s good for them. Alright, let me head over to take a look.”

Chapter 855: Yanlin Ju

After the third soul Martial Sage of the Yanlin Clan was killed, Shang Xia quickly captured the other one. He sealed off the core region with many lower-level cultivators of the Yanlin Clan trapped within. Additionally, he suppressed them all in order to prevent them from damaging the grand formation.

“Speak. Where is the Yanlin Holy Land?” Shang Xia questioned the other Martial Sage while releasing his divine will to inspect everything of interest in the region.

That was the core region of the Yanlin City, and anyone who was stationed there was definitely in the upper echelons of the Yanlin Clan. It was natural for them to own a lot of treasures.

In just that short moment, Shang Xia managed to discover many treasures of the fourth rank or above.

“All of you actually came here for our Holy Land?” The Martial Sage seemed shocked to learn of their intentions.

However, Shang Xia sounded even more surprised than him. “Hoh? Didn’t you wonder why we’re attacking your city?”

“All of you entered our world all of a sudden and definitely needed a place to settle down. Since you decided to attack our Yanlin City, it has to be to eliminate or chase us out of our territory. Taking over the city would also mean that it would make it easier for you to obtain control over the Southern Yanlin Continent...” The Martial Sage mumbled.

With a look of surprise on his face, Shang Xia muttered, “It’s not wrong for you guys to think that way, but it’s a shame... Oh right, you can call me Shang Xia. How should I address you?”

Turning his gaze away, a desolate voice left his lips. “I am Yanlin Ju. Since you have already captured me, what do you plan to do?”

Shang Xia thought about it for a moment and he replied, “I honestly have no idea if you will be killed or not. If you hand over the location of the entrance of your Holy Land, at the very least, a good portion of people in the city will be able to leave alive.”

As he spoke to Yanlin Ju, Shang Xia started to stroll about the core region. He stuffed everything of value into his Spatial Pouch while looking for the entrance of the Holy Land.

In the short time he took to stroll around, he actually managed to fill 2 Embroidered Cloud Cases and 2 Spatial Pouches with the treasures he found.

Most of the treasures were the secret stashes of the more important members of the Yanlin Clan. They hid those treasures in secret spaces covered with restrictions, or they used special sealing methods.

Shang Xia didn’t have time to examine each one of them specially but as long as he noticed a strange region, he would shatter any restriction in his way with brute force before tossing the treasures inside into a sealed spiritual case or into his spatial artifact directly.

Shang Xia knew that whatever he was finding at the moment was merely leftovers from the true treasures. The real accumulation of the Yanlin Clan was definitely hidden in the secret region that contained their Holy Land.

The true goal of the experts of the Azure Ascension World was the world origin contained in the Holy Land anyway.

Seeing how Shang Xia was locating such a huge number of treasures in the core region, Yanlin Ju felt his eyelids jumping violently. Even he didn’t expect the higher-ups of the Yanlin Clan to store so much treasure in the core region.

He thought back to the time before he became a Martial Sage and became a core part of the Yanlin Clan. He heard a rumor that the clan leader and many important figures in the clan had been exploiting the ordinary clansmen and keeping treasures for themselves. They even embezzled some of the treasures meant for promising juniors of the clan.

He didn't quite believe them at first. After all, he was an up-and-coming member of the junior generation. He received great care from the race and they showed him their best side. Everything that was happening in front of him proved that he was a mere exception to how the clan actually treated their disciples.

After stuffing a gourd with random strands of extermination qi, Shang Xia felt that no matter the quality of the extermination qi within, they would be equivalent to 3 complete extermination origins.

Seeing the strange look in Yanlin Ju's eyes, Shang Xia asked, "What's the matter? Are you really unwilling to speak?"

"What is the true motive of you outsiders invading us?" Yanlin Ju didn't answer the question directly. Instead, he growled in a cold voice.

Shang Xia glanced at him from the corner of his eye and replied placidly, "You don't seem to understand the situation you're in. Do you really think you're in a position to ask questions? I apologize. My patience has its limits."

He had already scoured the core region once, and despite his powerful and sensitive divine will, he failed to find the entrance to the secret region that contained their Holy Land. One could imagine how well hidden it was. Only truly important figures of the clan would know where it was.

Yanlin Ju started speaking all of a sudden. "After this battle, the Yanlin Clan will be severely damaged. We will never be able to return to the position of the 3 great factions of the Azure Flame World. I'm afraid it will be difficult for us to find our footing in the Southern Yanlin Continent... Since that's the case, what's the difference between letting the rest of the clansmen go? Even if they leave the city, they won't be able to live without strong experts protecting them in the Southern Yanlin Continent."

Shang Xia stared at Yanlin Ju and raised a single eyebrow. "In that case, wouldn't that mean that you won't talk? Looks like you have no more value to me."

"If you truly don't plan to kill everyone in the Yanlin Clan and don't plan to stay in the city for a long time, I might still be of some use to you..." Yanlin Ju said seriously.

Finally, Shang Xia felt a slight shift in emotions as he started to change his view of Yanlin Ju. "How do you know what we're up to?"

"There are too few of you. Even though all of you are experts, you would need to eliminate every single Martial Sage and Martial Ancestor of my Yanlin Clan if you wish to truly conquer the Southern Yanlin Continent. However, that's not what you guys are doing. Instead, the Yanlin Holy Land seems to be a more important goal for you. Hmm... In my current situation, what harm can I do by making wild guesses?" Yanlin Ju forced a smile and responded.

Shang Xia shook his head and pointed at the sky above. "Your clan leader has already been killed..."

Falling silent for a moment, Yanlin Ju continued, “Twelfth Uncle said that the leader will ruin the clan eventually...”

“Hm? Now I’m interested in listening to what you have to say.” Shang Xia mumbled after a short moment of contemplation.

A soft sigh eventually escaped Yanlin Ju’s lips. “It’s simple. I can tell you the location of the secret region that contains the Holy Land, and I can order every member of my clan to stop resisting until you guys leave. However, you need to promise me that you guys won’t carry out wanton massacres. Even after you leave our world, you cannot carry out any more destruction in our Yanlin City.”

Shang Xia continued to question. “Do you wish to retain the grand formation?”

“Without the city and the grand formation, a good majority of the ordinary clansmen in my Yanlin Clan will die!” Yanlin Ju growled.

Slightly surprised, Shang Xia understood that if the Azure Ascension World wanted to obtain world origin from the Azure Flame World, they couldn’t possibly carry out massacres in the Southern Yanlin Continent either. That would only cause the World’s Will to hate them even more.

Of course, before that, Shang Xia had to think about the costs and benefits of whatever he was about to do. He seemed to have forgotten how widespread killing and wanton massacres would affect a cultivator’s dao heart and morality.

Seeing how Shang Xia was quiet, Yanlin Ju finally examined the expert before him and discovered that Shang Xia looked a lot younger than himself. He seemed to have understood something and he sighed again, “I’m afraid it’s not a matter of whether I’m willing to surrender... It’s a matter of whether you’re able to make the decision.”

To that, Shang Xia only burst out laughing. “Relax. I am able to make the promise. I assure you that as long as your Yanlin Clan stops resisting, I’ll take charge of everything for the time being. After we leave, the Yanlin City will be rebuilt and be whole again... Oh. Right, before we return the city to all of you when we leave, we will ensure that the grand formation will remain in perfect condition.”

“For real?!” Yanlin Ju’s eyes lit up, but he soon shot Shang Xia a suspicious glance. “Are you really able to make the decisions?”

“I can swear an oath.” Shang Xia replied.

An oath couldn’t be made easily, especially when it concerned experts of a high level.

...

Under Yanlin Ju’s guidance, Shang Xia arrived at the entrance of one of the ancestral halls he had been to earlier.

“Here!” Yanlin Ju seemed to be testing Shang Xia as he didn’t point out the exact spot. After all, Shang Xia didn’t manage to discover anything when he passed it earlier.

Shang Xia stared at the entrance with a strange gaze. His divine will swept past it several times, but he failed to discover anything. In fact, he did the same thing when he was searching for treasures earlier.

He couldn't help but sigh to himself. It seemed as though every world had their strengths.

Compared to the Azure Ascension World, if they ignored the Sixth Order Ancestors of the Elysiums, the advancement of the cultivation path in the Azure Flame World didn't seem too inferior.

One of the main reasons the experts of the Azure Ascension World could successfully attack the Yanlin City was because they had an advantage in knowledge in certain areas.

The Azure Flame World probably allowed them to do as they wished as they thought that the bunch of cultivators who invaded were wandering experts in the stars and wanted a place to settle down and carry on their bloodline.

As such, they allowed the experts of the Azure Ascension World to do as they wished in the Southern Yanlin Continent. The factions of the Azure Flame World even hoped that they would fight the Yanlin Continent until both sides suffered heavy casualties.

Unfortunately, they were mistaken about the entire matter. The experts of the Azure Ascension World were there for world origin, and they were basically bandits who would be robbing the Azure Flame World of it!

"It's here." Yanlin Ju understood that Shang Xia was getting impatient and he quickly pointed out the real entrance to the secret region before Shang Xia blew up.

Staring at the pair of stone monsters guarding the entrance, Shang Xia couldn't believe that the entrance was actually in the mouth of one of the statues.

"This... This is really surprising..." Shang Xia sighed as his Five Element Dipper Qi swept across the space around the stone monster. Layers of space were broken, and a spatial tunnel was eventually revealed.

"Haha! So this is where it is! Brother Shang, please hold on a moment while I head in for a quick look!" A laugh came from behind Shang Xia as a powerful force descended from the void. If Shang Xia didn't avoid it, he might have been able to enter the Holy Land before whoever it was, but he would definitely suffer a hard hit from the back.

A frown formed on Shang Xia's face as he chose to avoid the sneak attack.

2 figures appeared from behind as they rushed at the entrance.

"Hahaha, Brother Shang, many thanks!"

This time, Shang Xia didn't just recognize the voice. He also saw who they were.

There were 2 of them, and the first person was someone Chu Jia and the others described. He was Han Mo, who chose to submit to the Northern Sea Mystic Sect after heavily injuring Liu Qinglan! The other was Qing Pingzi who had many run-ins with Shang Xia, and neither had a good impression of each other.

As they barreled at the entrance, a sky-blue light appeared from within the spatial tunnel and tore it to shreds.

“Crackle... Snap...”

A miserable cry came from within the spatial tunnel, and watching it collapse, Shang Xia tossed out his Five Element Ring to reopen the entrance to the Holy Land. He even used his Five Element Dipper Qi to maintain the new passage.

The figures who entered earlier stumbled out in a sorry state.

Using Han Mo as a shield, Qing Pingzi staggered out from the void. He managed to avoid the powerful lightning bolt, but Han Mo lost a Fate Dipper Clone because of it. Even his true body suffered varying degrees of injury.

At the same time, Shang Xia released a portion of his energy and forced Yanlin Ju into the ground.

“I... I really had no idea! I wouldn’t joke around with the lives of all my clansmen!” Yanlin Ju roared in terror.

Shang Xia ignored him completely as his divine will entered the Holy Land to scout out its interior.

“Shang Xia, you definitely did this...” Qing Pingzi dragged the heavily injured Han Mo out and left the core region with lingering fear in his heart.

Shang Xia didn’t even bother looking at Qing Pingzi. He snorted without turning his head. “You guys are actually fools. You went for wool, but came home shorn... Heh, The Northern Sea Mystic Sect wants to fish for benefits in a situation like this, and even sent a scapegoat out here to mess with me! If not for my help, would he be able to stay alive? What’s the matter? Are you guys trying to return my favor with enmity?”

“What’s going on?!” Multiple figures arrived above the core region of the city after hearing the explosion earlier.

However, none of them were fools. They didn’t need to ask to know what happened earlier.

“Martial Ancestor...” Qing Pingzi’s eyes lit up when he saw Lu Wuzi.

However, he was rudely interrupted before he could finish. “Shut up! You’re an embarrassment, you fool!”

Of course, with the situation they were currently in, both Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue knew that it wasn’t time to argue about what happened.

Kou Chongxue looked at the spatial tunnel that was supported by Shang Xia’s inner qi and he asked, ‘What’s the situation like in there?’

“There should be another expert in the Martial Dipper Realm guarding the spatial tunnel. However, he seems to be in an extremely poor state and he should be unable to take a single step out of their Holy Land. Mister Han Mo here was a little unlucky and ran into the other party’s final strike before death. Fortunately, he managed to stay alive. I also managed to maintain the spatial tunnel leading into the Holy Land.”

Kou Chongxue nodded slightly. However, his gaze landed on Yanlin Ju who was suppressed by Shang Xia.

Shang Xia quickly explained, "He probably didn't know what happened. After all, it wouldn't mean anything for him to plot against us at this point."

Chapter 856: Yanlin Holy Land

"You wish to protect him... Why?" Kou Chongxue understood Shang Xia's intentions as soon as he heard the words. Representing the Martial Dipper Realm experts of the Azure Ascension World, Kou Chongxue needed him to give a proper explanation.

Shang Xia didn't hide anything and told them what Yanlin Ju said earlier and the promise he made. "We occupied the Yanlin City, but there are at least 4 more experts comparable to our Martial Dipper Realm cultivators outside the city. We can't possibly kill every last one of them. If we choose to work together, we will be able to save a lot of energy and possibly gain a lot."

"Why don't we chase all of them out of the city then?" Hu Dexun of the Triple Frost Palace clearly didn't agree with Shang Xia's decision. "We can choose not to massacre them all, but leaving them in the city is like leaving a ticking time bomb beside us. We can't possibly achieve everything we need overnight, and the experts of the Azure Flame World wouldn't sit by idly. There will definitely be a massive battle outside the city, and who can be sure that they wouldn't turn their swords against us?"

"There might not be many cultivators left in the city, but there are many ordinary mortals. How will we be able to ensure that they won't die if we chase them out of the city? Are we supposed to leave them to their fates? Don't forget, the Beast Tide is raging outside and under such circumstances, the Yanlin Clan can no longer stand against it. We can't possibly send out men to defend against the Beast Tide and all of them will die if we chase them out. What's the difference between chasing them out of the city and killing them ourselves?" Shang Xia retorted.

A mocking sneer came from the side, and a strange voice filled the air. "Youngster, this is a war between 2 worlds. It's not time for us to act benevolent."

Facing Yifeng's sarcastic remark, Shang Xia didn't seem afraid at all. He countered, "Elder Yifeng, how do you think the World's Will will react if we chase every single member of the Yanlin Clan out and they die to the Beast Tide? How would the various powers of the Azure Flame World respond?"

Yifeng's gaze turned and he pretended to reach an understanding and he roared with laughter, "Hahaha! Young one, you're actually thinking of something so sinister! You plan to hold everyone in the Yanlin Clan hostage so that the other powers of the Azure Flame World won't dare to go too far when attacking us! Hehehe... Your thinking is pretty good. You have the makings of the sinister Old Man Kou. I like it! Let's do this then!"

After he spoke, he didn't care about the look on Shang Xia's face as he turned to Kou Chongxue, "Oldie Kou, this is a pretty good plan. We're doing it!"

Kou Chongxue chuckled softly before turning to Shang Xia. “Alright. You can request for the members of the Yanlin Clan to surrender with him. They can choose to leave after you explain the situation to them. Go ahead and choose if they wish to leave the city or not. Anyone who does can run out to sea or they can head out to face the Beast Tide. Those who agree to stay will not be allowed to congregate in the city. They have to enter the Yanlin Holy Land. After all, once the battle starts, their safety wouldn’t be ensured in the city.”

Shang Xia wasn’t the only one who was shocked by what he said. Even the others couldn’t believe what they were hearing.

Yifeng slowly gave Kou Chongxue a big thumbs up as his jaws were wide open in surprise.

Kou Chongxue chuckled, “Everyone, let’s talk about this after we clean out the Yanlin Holy Land!”

Smiles appeared on their faces. It was finally time to gather their spoils of war!

Everything Shang Xia retrieved earlier could barely be considered a drop in the ocean when compared to the treasures in the Holy Land.

...

From the looks of it, the space in the Yanlin Holy Land was slightly more spacious than the Tongyou Paradise.

One had to know that when the Tongyou Institution established the Tongyou Paradise, they not only used up the tens of years of accumulations Kou Chongxue prepared. They also used the Origin Tide that happened during the fusion of the Azure Origin World and the Azure Spiritual World. The Tongyou Paradise had a starting point higher than many holy lands...

The reason why the Yanlin Holy Land was so big was probably because of their hundreds of years of foundation. It contained every single bit of their effort as they expanded the Holy Land bit by bit through the generations.

The density of world origin in the Yanlin Holy Land was great, and it was much better when the Tongyou Paradise was just established back then.

However, the denser the world origin, the more difficult it would be for the experts of the Azure Ascension World to circulate their dipper qi.

With the same logic, the Yanlin Holy Land was directly connected with the World Origin Source of the Azure Flame World. The moment the experts of the Azure Ascension World stepped into it, the stronger the suppression they faced!

Rather than showing expressions of pain or disgust, everyone had looks of joy on their faces.

The denser the world origin in the air, the greater the disruption to their inner qi, and the greater restraint to their combat abilities, proved that their choice was correct. It would mean that they were close to the World Origin Source of the world!

Even though all of them felt dense dipper qi and extermination qi the moment they entered, and also felt a lot of spiritual treasures and herbs, no one was in a rush to harvest any of them.

Their attention was placed on the Stellar Cauldron beneath Kou Chongxue’s feet.

At the same time, Lu Wuzi seemed to be using his Halo Mirror to look for something in the Holy Land. Yi Jingxu was also doing some calculations at the side.

A moment later, they seemed to reach a consensus and they nodded at Kou Chongxue in unison.

With them leading the way, Kou Chongxue arrived at a certain spot in the Holy Land.

It seemed to be a sacrificial altar that was made from the earth.

“Looks like this is it. It’s the core of the Holy Land.” No one knew when, but Yifeng had already approached the altar and grabbed a handful of dirt. Sparkling light emerged from the surface below.

“This altar has been nourished by world origin for a long time and it seems comparable to high-grade essence crystals.”

Xuan Lu looked at the few crystals in his hand and he turned to ask Kou Chongxue, “I heard that the You Continent has been gathering essence crystals with strange properties. These look comparable to them.”

Kou Chongxue burst out laughing, “If your White Deer Sect is willing to trade with us, we’ll pay you a premium!”

Shaking his head, Xuan Lu muttered, “The Yi Continent isn’t as rich as your You Continent. I’m afraid things have changed in the White Deer Sect...”

“Brother Xuan Lu, you’re just being humble.” Kou Chongxue added before sending the Stellar Cauldron over to the platform. Under everyone’s gaze, it landed directly on the altar.

Boom! Buzz...

A strong rumble came from the ground below and everyone felt it clearly. Even the Holy Land shook once.

Under their strong perception, they noticed a strange connection with the Azure Flame World. A majestic sea of world origin appeared in their consciousness and it gave off some sort of attraction that they couldn’t resist. They seemed to be pulled towards the body of water to fuse with the world.

Most of the Martial Dipper Realm experts present experienced something like that in the past, and they became a lot more alert after discovering the presence of the World Origin Source. A few of them quickly snapped back to reality.

By then, Kou Chongxue was already hovering above the Stellar Cauldron.

At that moment, the Stellar Cauldron was like a massive Taotie [1] as it devoured the world origin from the Azure Flame World greedily.

What was more mystical was the fact that after world origin entered the cauldron and was emitted, the experts of the Azure Ascension World could absorb and refine it in order to restore their energy!

In the short moment, every single Martial Dipper Realm expert who was standing close to the cauldron felt the sense of suffocation dissipating. A refreshing feeling washed over them as they absorbed world origin that was comparable to that of world origin from the Azure Ascension World.

The transformation of world origin was just one of the functions of the Origin Holy Artifact.

Chapter 857: Reappearance of the Bronze Book

When Kou Chongxue brought everyone into the Yanlin Holy Land, Shang Xia didn't follow. Instead, he brought Yanlin Ju around the city to get everyone to surrender.

With Yanlin Ju, a Martial Sage, personally making an appearance, along with the aura of the powerful Martial Dipper Realm experts of the Azure Ascension World, with the addition of their control over the grand formation, the cultivators of the Yanlin Clan could only give up. Moreover, they knew that if they continued to resist, the ordinary non-cultivator clansmen would not be able to live.

As such, the process of getting the city to surrender went a lot smoother than Shang Xia expected.

When he was making his rounds around the city, he ran into Huang Jinghan and Jiu Du who seemed to be in a hurry to return to the city.

Seeing the serious look on their faces, Shang Xia couldn't help but ask, "Seniors, did it not go as planned?"

Jiu Du didn't seem interested in wasting his breath on a junior, but Huang Jinghan spoke from the side, "We ran into a peak-tier Martial Sage and fought several rounds. Obviously, I couldn't defeat him. Elder Jiu Du arrived soon after, and we managed to retreat thanks to that."

"Fifth element of the Martial Dipper Realm?" Shang Xia turned serious as well. "I heard that the strongest experts in the Azure Flame World are the 3 clan leaders. During the battle above the heavenly screen, Clan Leader Chen Baixing of the Western Wenchen Continent was killed by Patriarch Kou. In the air above the Yanlin City, Clan Leader Yanlin Zongheng was killed under the attack of many experts on our side. Now... It looks like you guys ran into Clan Leader Yuancang Ming of the Eastern Nuanyuan Continent..."

Huang Jinghan nodded slightly. "That should be him. I feel like he's no simple character. He chose to retreat because we had the numbers advantage..."

Shang Xia agreed. "The moment Patriarch Kou starts to retrieve world origin, the Martial Sages of this world will definitely be able to feel the chance. When that happens, the various factions will probably form an alliance to deal with us. Yuancang Ming will definitely be the leader of their operation."

"When that happens, a nasty battle will break out..." Huang Jinghan nodded.

Shang Xia turned to look at Jiu Du who was standing silently at the side. He didn't care about the old man's feelings and he laughed, "I wonder how things are going with Elder Jiu Du?"

He received a forced reply. "They're just several clowns who were spying around. It was easy to get rid of them. As for the 4 Martial Sages of the Yanlin Clan who went south of the city... We engaged in a bitter battle and one of them was killed while another was seriously injured. The others chose to escape as they knew they were no match for us."

Jiu Du seemed to have thought of something and he continued, "If the experts of the Azure Flame World join hands, those 2 survivors will definitely be rushing at us first."

Shang Xia nodded. "It's something we expected."

At that moment, Jiu Du noticed the clansmen of the Yanlin Clan gathering and he couldn't help but ask, "Aren't we afraid that they will be a hidden threat to our plans?"

Shang Xia chuckled lightly in response, "When the time comes, they will all have to enter the Yanlin Holy Land."

"Heh?" Huang Jinghan scoffed at the side before praising, "I wonder whose plan this is? How can they even think of something like that?"

"Even so, we can't be sure that there isn't a hidden weakness in the grand formation that only they know..." Jiu Du mumbled.

To that, Shang Xia could only sigh helplessly, "We can only believe in our Formation Grandmasters when the time comes."

The next moment, they noticed a commotion affecting the city.

"This..." Shang Xia seemed to realize that the disturbance was coming from the Holy Land, and that it was actually a tremor that was caused by the world itself.

"Did Brother Kou already begin?"

Shang Xia wasn't the only one who felt it. Huang Jinghan and Jiu Du could clearly feel the change and they guessed what happened.

They exchanged a glance and started to rush towards the entrance of the Yanlin Holy Land after being directed by Shang Xia.

Shang Xia then discovered the strange feeling of Yanlin Ju who was following behind him.

"Are you... Regretting your actions?" Shang Xia couldn't help but ask.

Yanlin Ju sighed, and there was a trace of doubt in his voice as he replied, "That's not it. However, I just felt a strange sense of sorrow overwhelming me. I failed to control my emotions..."

Shang Xia didn't say anymore after grunting once, but he had a guess in his heart. *Yanlin Ju's emotions were probably stirred by the World's Will. Was it actually able to affect him?*

...

Above the heavenly screen, Yuancang Ming frowned as he thought back to the battle with the outsiders he just fought. At the same time, he thought about everything that happened to the Yanlin Clan. The city was destroyed, and the clan was heavily damaged. He even thought about the impact on the Azure Flame World and how he should deal with everything that would come next.

All of a sudden, he felt the world trembling once. Sorrow filled his mind the next moment and it seemed as though he was losing something very important to the world.

As the peak-tier Martial Sage of the world, he knew that his sudden change in emotions wasn't meaningless. It seemed more like a hint he received from the World's Will, and it was also a sigh.

The sign he received seemed to originate from his path of cultivation, and it was closely linked with the world.

It was a feeling that told him that the Azure Flame World was under threat!

Realizing what the feeling meant, Yuancang Ming had a strong premonition that the outsiders were the cause of it!

Even though he didn't know what methods they were using to threaten the world, ever since they tore through the heavenly screen and rushed to attack the Yanlin Clan, he felt that their main goal was most likely the Holy Land.

He had to stop the outsiders from damaging their world!

Seeing his mind to it, he had a strange feeling that he wasn't the only one who felt it earlier. He felt that he should be able to gather more experts to support his cause.

...

In the Yanlin City, the Formation Grandmasters of the Azure Ascension World arrived. They immediately started to modify the grand formation.

With the supervision of Shang Xia and several Martial Dipper Realm experts, Yanlin Ju completed his persuasion of the Yanlin Clan's experts to provide assistance.

There were definitely some of them who were stubborn at first, but they became extremely great tools used to warn the others. As such, the problem was quickly solved.

Throughout the process, there were Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Azure Ascension World who were returning to the city.

Sun Haiwei and the others traveled over by ship, and when Shang Xia rushed over to meet them, he discovered that they were actually on a flying ship!

"It's only able to maintain flight for a short while, and it can't fly too high. We gave up a bunch of treasures because of it! Actually... We might have lost out big time!" Sun Haiwei laughed.

Shang Xia yelled, "No, no, no! This flying ship is extremely important to us! It's more important than you imagine!"

Tian Mengzi asked, "How should we deal with this? It's a lot larger than the Ten Thousand Needle Pine and we can't possibly bring it with us back to the Azure Ascension World, right?"

Shang Xia was slightly taken aback. As Chu Jia was involved with the grand formation modification, she obviously didn't have extra time to study the ship. Moreover, even if she did, she might not have enough time to uncover its mysteries.

Sun Haiwei stared at Shang Xia and muttered, "Should we... Should we ask for help from the members of the Heavenly Star Palace?"

Tian Mengzi and the others looked at Shang Xia in unison.

After a short sigh, Shang Xia's gaze landed on a nearby figure and he gasped, "How could I have forgotten about him?!"

After he spoke, he started to approach the figure under the confused gazes of those present. “Rather than confusing ourselves, why don’t we ask the creator of the flying ship?”

Light flashed through their eyes and they forgot that there were a lot of members of the Yanlin Clan present in the city. There were also many of them who were high-level experts who had a good grasp of crafting arts.

Shang Xia spoke about the matter to Yanlin Ju. Without even thinking, Yanlin Ju promised to hand over the method to craft the flying ship.

Since he surrendered on behalf of the Yanlin Clan, there was no point in offending the experts of the Azure Ascension World over small matters like that.

Yanlin Ju’s cooperative attitude seemed to let Shang Xia think of a lot of things. He felt that he should probably use a portion of his energy to obtain the various inheritances left behind. It didn’t matter if it was inheritance related to cultivation or those related to formations, talismans, medicine, or crafting weapons.

They might have crushed the Yanlin Clan easily, but that didn’t mean that the inheritances were useless!

The Yanlin Clan had many Marital Sages, and they were able to continuously expand in the Southern Yanlin Continent. They even managed to become one of the 3 strongest powers in the Azure Flame World! That proved that they were no ordinary faction.

Of course, Shang Xia wouldn’t be the only one to think of that. There might already be Martial Dipper Realm experts going around to gather the inheritances left behind.

After thinking about it, Shang Xia’s gaze turned back to the core region.

The next second, he saw Shen Baisong rushing at him.

“Brother Shen, this...” Shang Xia saw the look of haste in his eyes and he couldn’t help but ask.

Shen Baisong chuckled, “I’m not exactly the strongest expert here and my abilities are limited. All I can do is to become a messenger for Kou Chongxue and the others... About this... Our fellow cultivator Yanlin...”

Yanlin Ju didn’t dare to accept the greeting and he quickly asked, “What would you guys need?”

“We managed to tidy up the Holy Land and you can bring your clansmen to hide in there. After all, another massive battle is about to break out and we don’t wish for your casualties to increase.”

After Yanlin Ju received the order, he arranged for the members of the Yanlin Clan to enter the Holy Land to avoid getting caught up in the crossfire.

Shen Baisong turned to Shang Xia next. “Brother Shang, Patriarch Kou has summoned you.”

“Me?” Shang Xia raised an eyebrow in shock.

“I don’t know what’s going on exactly. After all, I’m just a messenger.”

Shang Xia naturally wouldn't take him as a mere messenger and he mumbled, "Many thanks to Brother Shen for relaying the information! I will head over immediately!"

Bidding farewell to Sun Haiwei and the others, Shang Xia entered the Yanlin Holy Land. He quickly arrived at the sacrificial platform at the core of the Holy Land.

After seeing him, Kou Chongxue indicated for him to enter the cauldron.

...

Liu Qinglan was still in a coma, but the fluctuating energy around her body had already calmed down. The other person in the cauldron also woke up.

"Lady Xinlan, we meet again!" Shang Xia could see that even though Gong Xinlan looked weak at the moment, her state of mind was stable. As such, he gave her a greeting.

Gong Xinlan nodded once to acknowledge his presence before turning away.

Kou Chongxue also appeared in the Stellar Cauldron, and a thick copper book could be seen in his hand. He passed it to Shang Xia and asked, "Take a look at this. Do you have a way to open it?"

"Huh?"

...

Chapter 858: Substitute

...

After entering the Yanlin Holy Land, he could feel the dense world origin, but there was a strange feeling hidden within.

Originally, the denser the world origin in the area, the more the experts of the Azure Ascension World would feel a sense of rejection.

The strange feeling Shang Xia was getting was because the sense of rejection felt a lot weaker than he expected. In fact, there was also a trace of familiarity mixed within.

The contrasting feeling hit him directly, and it even caused his inner qi circulation to become quite affected.

Surprised, Shang Xia quickly restrained his aura and stopped the circulation of inner qi in his body for the time being.

In the short time he felt the strange feeling, he could already feel his inner qi starting to go out of control.

Fortunately, it wasn't anything too serious. After stopping the chaos in his body, he thought about the problem a majority of the Martial Dipper Realm experts could think of and stopped absorbing the world origin around him.

Of course, it wasn't as though everyone would be able to think of it. If anyone's dipper qi was too weak and they got careless, they might face some troubles.

A bold guess quickly formed in Shang Xia's mind. He felt as though Kou Chongxue had already started to transform the world origin of the Azure Flame World with the Origin Holy Artifact.

His guesses were soon verified. As he got closer to the core of the Holy Land, the sense of rejection he felt decreased greatly and the sense of familiarity increased.

By the time he noticed the altar the Origin Holy Artifact was on, he could already absorb the world origin around him to replenish his energy without messing with his inner qi circulation.

It was then when he noticed that there were around 10 or so Martial Dipper Realm experts within 1000 feet of the Origin Holy Artifact appearing to be deep in cultivation.

Currently, there were less than 30 Martial Dipper Realm experts of the Azure Ascension World left and more than half of them were injured. A good portion of them had exhausted their inner qi during the successive battles that took place.

Among those cultivating in the area, almost all of them were those who had lost Fate Dipper Clones during the great battle or had suffered heavy injuries. They needed to cultivate in order to stabilize their condition.

Shang Xia could also tell that all of them were refining the fate dipper essences they had lost during their process of cultivation.

He could tell that they managed to save a good portion of their fate dipper essence when they were injured back then. It was either that or those fate dipper essences came from the members of the Azure Flame World.

One had to know that from the time they started to fight at the heavenly screen, to the time they took over the Yanlin City, there might have been 10 or so experts from the Azure Ascension World who died. Naturally, there were even more experts from the Azure Flame World who were killed.

After their deaths, a portion of their fate dipper essences would become the spoils of war for those still alive. With the addition of those they obtained from the Yanlin Holy Land, the experts of the Azure Ascension World who were still alive would discover that they didn't even lose much. Instead, they might have gained quite a bit!

Of course, the loss in their immediate combat power was real and they needed to restore it as quickly as possible.

Shang Xia didn't know how much the mastermind of the entire operation, Kou Chongxue, obtained. Of course, he also obtained a fortune from the core region of the Yanlin City. He just hadn't sorted them out yet.

Shang Xia's arrival didn't draw too much attention and he made his way onto the platform. Kou Chongxue noticed him a long time ago as he was hovering around the entrance of the cauldron, and he made a single gesture to create a world origin vortex that pulled Shang Xia into the Origin Holy Artifact. Shang Xia didn't resist and he felt the world spinning around him. The next moment, he arrived inside the cauldron.

Liu Qinglan was still unconscious, but her injuries had pretty much stabilized.

When Kou Chongxue brought Shang Xia into the cauldron, the disturbance alerted Gong Xinlan who slowly opened her eyes. Her complexion wasn't the best as she turned to look at Shang Xia.

“Lady Xinlan, we meet again!” Shang Xia could see that even though Gong Xinlan looked weak at the moment, her state of mind was stable. As such, he gave her a greeting.

Gong Xinlan nodded once to acknowledge his presence before turning away. When their eyes met earlier, Shang Xia could see the look of despair on her face.

“The young lady was abandoned by the Yuanchen Sect!” Kou Chongxue’s voice came from behind him, and Shang Xia noticed that Kou Chongxue had left a clone in the cauldron while his true body remained outside.

Grunting once, a light flashed in Shang Xia’s eyes as he seemed to understand what happened.

When he entered the forbidden region in the Celestial Remains, he ran into Gong Xinlan while getting to the Stellar Cauldron.

Back then, she was probably sent by the Yuanchen Sect to look for the Origin Holy Artifact.

Shang Xia got to it first, and he caused a massive phenomenon to ripple through the Celestial Remains with his actions. Huang Jinghan and Jiu Du were afraid that he would obtain the treasure and chose to force their way into the forbidden region. It was probably then when Huang Jinghan chose to abandon her. She was thrown into chaotic space next...

Kou Chongxue’s clone brought out a thick bronze book the next moment and handed it to Shang Xia. “Take a look at this. Do you have a way to open it?”

“Huh?”

Shang Xia was shocked when he looked at the bronze book and he stared at the clone with a look of confusion.

Kou Chongxue’s clone nodded once. “You’re right. This is the book Han Mo wanted to snatch from Dou Zhong and the rest. It fell into chaotic space by accident and it was obtained by Young Lady Gong who was stranded there...”

Shang Xia held the book that seemed like a massive bronze carving and he mumbled, “This is truly...”

“Brat, don’t get too happy. Young Lady Gong gave the book to me after I spoke about why Qinglan was in a coma. I didn’t have a way to open it and that’s why I’m passing it to you.” Kou Chongxue’s clone muttered.

Surprised, Shang Xia examined the book in his hand and noticed that there were really thick pages made of bronze within. The problem came when he tried to open the book. It was like a giant block of bronze that didn’t allow him to flop the pages open.

Gong Xinlan’s hoarse voice came from behind. “When I obtained it in the streams of chaotic space, I thought that it would become my saving grace. However, I failed to open it no matter how hard I tried. Even after using my dipper qi, it didn’t budge. I even tried to destroy it in a state of desperation, but nothing worked.”

Shang Xia turned to look at Kou Chongxue’s clone again.

Helpless, the clone sighed, "I tried everything I could. However, I still failed to open it. There seems to be some sort of special restriction on the book that would only allow it to be opened with the proper method. Your fate dippers are special and I thought of letting you try."

Shang Xia's heart trembled once. From what he was hearing, there seemed to be another method to open the book that wasn't correct. He chuckled, "Patriarch Kou, dare I ask... What's an improper way to open the book?"

Kou Chongxue's clone seemed to expect Shang Xia to ask the question and he replied casually. "It's nothing too elaborate. My true body could shove the Hidden Frost Sword in the book and force it open, but the chance of destroying the contents within is too high."

"... Take it as I never asked..." Shang Xia mumbled.

Examining the book in his hand that was pretty heavy, he discovered that there wasn't a single marking on its surface. There were several lines carved into it and from the looks of it, it was something like a pyramid that looked similar to a Star Observatory.

Could the book be related to the Stargazer inheritance? Was it the complete inheritance?

When he thought about it, Shang Xia felt a wave of excitement washing over him and understood why Kou Chongxue called him over.

Pressing the spine of the book on the ground below, Shang Xia tried to force it open. He found that it was indeed useless. However, from the separation of pages within it, he could tell that the pages had many inscriptions like that of the front cover.

Things were getting interesting. He wondered why the creator of the book didn't use words.

He no longer tried to force the book open. Instead, after a short moment of contemplation, he tried to push his dipper qi into it.

The next moment, he felt a sense of obstruction that seemed pretty familiar to him. He had once come into contact with something like it, but the sense of obstruction coming from the book seemed a lot stronger and a lot more powerful.

It was as though a higher power was contained in the book and it was no wonder even Kou Chongxue couldn't open it normally. If he wanted to, he would have to force it open like he said.

Fortunately, it wasn't as though Shang Xia couldn't deal with the obstruction he was feeling. Even though it was powerful, he would still be able to wear it down in the end. His Five Element Dipper Qi would be able to get rid of the restrictions preventing it from opening and it was a matter of time.

When he tried to push his dipper qi into the book, Kou Chongxue's clone and Gong Xinlan didn't say anymore as they quietly awaited the conclusion.

All of a sudden, Shang Xia retrieved his energy and he looked at Kou Chongxue's clone. "I'm afraid I will need a lot of time before I can open it. However..."

He hadn't completed his sentence when Kou Chongxue's clone chuckled in amusement. "Nice! Lad, I knew you could do it! Not to worry. From now on, all you need to do is to focus on opening the book."

Gong Xinlan revealed a look of surprise when she heard that Shang Xia was confident in opening the book.

Raising his eyebrows in shock, Shang Xia wondered out loud, “Am I going to stay in here to do it?”

Kou Chongxue’s clone laughed. “Of course! You will need to take over my job and absorb world origin from the Azure Flame World for the time being and successfully transform it into something we can use. You should also attempt to make this place somewhere we can cultivate successfully. Of course, it would be best if you can send the transformed world origin into the Yanlin City...”

“That’s not going to be easy. I might not be able to do everything in time.” Shang Xia frowned.

Slapping Shang Xia’s shoulders, Kou Chongxue’s clone smiled, “It’s alright! Do your best. I should be able to free myself up and deal with the encirclement from the Azure Flame World with you in charge of things here.”

Chapter 859: The Picky Crimson Soul Tablet

After Kou Chongxue refined the Stellar Cauldron, it belonged to him exclusively.

However, from the moment Shang Xia came in contact with the Stellar Cauldron, Kou Chongxue understood that he was even more suited to control the Origin Holy Artifact.

The only problem was that the Origin Holy Artifact was already refined by him and the treasure concerned the foundations of the Tongyou Institution. He couldn’t easily hand the artifact over to Shang Xia due to the massive scheme he already came up with.

Under their current circumstances, the experts of the Azure Ascension World required a large amount of world origin from the Azure Flame World and they needed to modify the Holy Land the best they could in order to prepare for the great battle that would break out soon. Peak-tier experts like Kou Chongxue would have to take part in the battle no matter what, and Shang Xia had to take over his position and control the Origin Holy Artifact.

Because he already had experience controlling the treasure, along with Kou Chongxue giving him full control over the Stellar Cauldron, he didn’t have much difficulty controlling it.

Now that he had taken over the control of the cauldron, Kou Chongxue tossed several strands of fate dipper essence of the five elements at him. “I obtained these from the Yanlin Holy Land. After splitting up the treasures among the various factions, these belong to you.”

After he spoke, Kou Chongxue flicked his sleeves and smiled. “Oh course, I also have complete Origin Dippers. However, I need to leave them for your grandfather and Wenlong. Oh yeah, Young Lady Gong also got 1. After all, she’s an expert in the Martial Dipper Realm. It’s a waste not to make use of it.”

Shang Xia was slightly taken aback, but he nodded slightly.

Gong Xinlan used to be a second element Martial Dipper Realm expert. Now that the members of the Tongyou Institution saved her life and helped her to restore her cultivation, Kou Chongxue planned to take her under their wing to become a part of the institution.

When Kou Chongxue was drawing world origin from the Azure Flame World earlier, he already replenished the energy he lost during the battle. He reached his peak state once again, and it was also the reason he summoned Shang Xia to take over his place in controlling the Stellar Cauldron.

Of course, there was another reason. Kou Chongxue could clearly feel that he was extremely close to comprehending his martial intent. He was separated from the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm by a paper thin screen and the battle that would break out in a little while would be the key for him to poke an opening in the thin screen.

After gaining control over the cauldron, Shang Xia could feel the massive World Origin Source of the Azure Flame World.

During the ascension of the Tongyou Mysterious World to the Tongyou Paradise in the past, Shang Xia had the experience of coming into contact with the World Origin Source which was a massive sea of world origin. However, the feeling he got from the World Origin Source of the Azure Flame World was slightly different from back then.

When he felt the vast sea of world origin in the Azure Ascension World, the worlds were fusing and there was a portion of world origin from the Manyu Continent. Back then, the feeling he received was extremely chaotic and it felt extremely hidden and profound. Even when he tried to strengthen the connection with the World Origin Source, he would feel a sense of suppression.

The World Origin Source in the Azure Flame World was vastly different. When Shang Xia connected with it through the Origin Holy Artifact, he found that it was extremely peaceful. The sea of world origin was clear, but it gave off a profound sense of power. Even though he didn't feel pressured by it, there was a strange sense of attraction to it.

The world origin in the Azure Ascension World was clearly a lot more powerful, and the reserves were much deeper. The world origin of the Azure Flame World was much calmer and it was much more mild.

It seemed as though the patriarch chose a great place to plunder! Oh... *wait a second... He didn't choose the Azure Flame World because he had a choice...*

With Shang Xia's Five Element Arts closing in on the grand completion stage, his control over world origin had also reached an unprecedented level.

Using his Five Element Arts as the base, he borrowed the power of the Origin Holy Artifact to swallow the world origin from the Azure Flame World. It gave off a deep hum, and it started to absorb world origin at a rate that far surpassed the time when Kou Chongxue controlled the cauldron earlier. It transformed the world origin within the cauldron before emitting it for experts from the Azure Ascension World to absorb. Of course, he stored a portion in the cauldron and only released half of the world origin he absorbed.

In the area thousands of feet around the cauldron, the experts of the Azure Ascension World could feel the spatial ripples caused by the sudden increase in world origin.

The experts who were cultivating close to the cauldron were rudely awakened by the sudden change, and they stared at the Stellar Cauldron in shock. To be more accurate, they were staring at the young figure who was floating at the top of the cauldron.

“This youngster's control of world origin actually surpassed Kou Chongxue!”

“Is there anything weird about it? Don’t forget that he was the person who activated the Origin Holy Artifact to send us all to this world...”

“...”

Voice transmissions flew around, but eventually, everything turned quiet.

Shang Xia’s control over world origin might have surpassed everyone’s expectations, but under the circumstances, his ability to draw on more world origin only benefited the members of the Azure Ascension World. It was a great opportunity for them to recover.

Shang Xia’s divine will was extremely sharp, and he caught most of the voice transmissions going around. However, he didn’t really care too much about their conversation as he placed all his attention in the depths of his sea of consciousness.

That was because the moment he made the connection, the Crimson Soul Tablet, that was acting like a problem child the entire time before, finally showed some reaction!

Even though the feeling wasn’t extremely intense, and it felt like the tablet merely opened its eyes from its slumber, whatever it was, it was the first reaction it had in a long time.

Shang Xia was able to reach his current level not just due to his efforts. He had been through countless life-and-death experiences and overcame most of them alone, but when his cultivation was stuck at a bottleneck, the Crimson Soul Tablet would always point him in the right direction.

When Shang Xia entered the Five Element Realm, the recovery of the Crimson Soul Tablet stopped. It entered a deep slumber, and no matter how many times Shang Xia tried to activate it, it wouldn’t answer. It also lost all interest in world origin.

Shang Xia’s cultivation was still rising in the Five Element Realm, but he wasn’t as confident as before since he knew that the Crimson Soul Tablet might not be there for him.

Even though he already created a path to comprehend his martial intent and had a certain level of insight to his advancement to the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm, he wasn’t able to verify it without the Crimson Soul Tablet!

The tablet had always been the greatest secret he held. Other than himself, no one knew of its existence. It was also why he had been secretly trying to look for a way to restore it without letting anyone else know.

He actually had a conjecture as to why the tablet went into deep sleep. One of the possibilities might be because world origin alone might not be enough to restore the rest of the tablet.

He had been looking for a way to repair the tablet for a long time or to just activate the tablet again. However, nothing worked.

Now that the tablet was ‘awakening’, Shang Xia’s consciousness was immediately drawn to it. He placed most of his attention on it.

Soon after, he discovered the change. It was finally devouring world origin again, even though it was at an extremely slow pace. Whatever the case, it was finally absorbing world origin again! What Shang Xia discovered next was a nearly imperceptible restoration.

Even though the scale of it was so small that it was insignificant, Shang Xia felt a sense of excitement boiling in him.

It meant that the Crimson Soul Tablet didn't lose all interest in world origin! It was also able to continue restoring itself!

Of course, if he were to compare the speed of which the Crimson Soul Tablet devoured world origin in the past, the current Crimson Soul Tablet was like a picky eater who was choosing and picking everything it absorbed. Actually, it seemed to only be picking out a small amount of world origin that interested it.

Shang Xia also noticed that the absorption of world origin didn't go through the Origin Holy Artifact. Instead, it was directly sucking world origin from the Azure Flame World!

From how 'picky' it was acting, Shang Xia concluded that even though the Azure Flame World's world origin seemed to interest it, it was merely having a taste. It was no longer in a state of desperation where it would absorb any world origin to remain intact!

Things were truly getting interesting now. The core of the tablet was still greatly damaged, and there was a long way to go before it could restore itself! How could it possibly give up a chance to recover?

Unless... The usefulness of world origin from the Azure Flame World is limited when it comes to its restoration!

A second guess soon appeared in Shang Xia's mind. Could the quality of world origin be limited by the grade of the world?!

In other words, the Azure Ascension World was already standing at the peak of all Azure Worlds. The world origin it produced was one step away from what a Spirit World could produce. That might explain the reason behind the Crimson Soul Tablet being so reluctant to absorb world origin from other Azure Worlds.

Was he supposed to wait for the Azure Ascension World to ascend?

During the ascension process, the world origin contained in the World Origin Source will definitely transform. When that happened, Shang Xia wondered if the crimson Soul Tablet would absorb it like it used it.

Even though everything was a guess, Shang Xia felt that the possibility of it being true was very high!

After realizing what was going on, Shang Xia's speed of drawing world origin from the Azure Flame World and transforming it with the Stellar Cauldron increased by 30 percent.

The Origin Holy Artifact's main function was to absorb and convert world origin in the first place. With Shang Xia's control, the world origin and heaven and earth spiritual qi in the Yanlin Holy Land started to transform at a rapid pace.

That wasn't all. Along with the successful transformation, waves upon waves of heaven and earth spiritual qi emerged and filled the city.

The Yanlin Holy Land wasn't the only region that experienced the change. The experts in the Yanlin City started to feel the sense of rejection of the World's Will fading slightly.

After the modifications to the grand formation, it actually had the style and strength of what was commonly seen in the Azure Ascension World. With the change in heaven and earth spiritual qi and world origin, it became a lot more powerful.

What the experts from the Azure Ascension World didn't know was that the moment Shang Xia took over Kou Chongxue's position to absorb world origin, the high-level experts of the Azure Flame World felt another violent tremor. This time, the feeling of sorrow wasn't the only thing they felt. A sense of fear was instilled in them as a sense of unease set in.

Chapter 860: Seventh Set of Fate Dipper Essences

At the end of the day, the Azure Flame World wasn't the home of experts from the Azure Ascension World. Their goal was to obtain world origin, and regardless if it was Shang Xia or Kou Chongxue, neither showed restraint when they devoured world origin through the Stellar Cauldron. They acted without a care in the world as they wanted to absorb as much as they could as quickly as they could!

It was especially so after Shang Xia controlled the cauldron. The speed at which the world origin was absorbed reached a whole new level, and it immediately caused the World's Will to feel a sense of fear.

The feeling spread to the high-level experts extremely quickly. Even Martial Ancestors of the world could feel what the World's Will felt. Of course, they didn't know the source of it.

Only Martial Sages could feel the fear the World's Will had and the pain it was feeling. They could deduce that the outsiders were the cause of it.

The true peak-tier existences in the Azure Flame World could accurately pinpoint the change to the World Origin Source, and they could tell it was gradually growing stronger.

The change to the World Origin Source was gradually becoming something strange to them, but they were clear that it was changing for the worse. A trace of urgency filled their minds and they instinctively wanted to drive the outsiders out of the Azure Flame World.

Shang Xia might not know that above the Eastern Nuanyuan Continent, experts of the Azure Flame World were gathering under Yuancang Ming's banner.

When he was about to fully convert the heaven and earth spiritual qi in the Yanlin Holy Land, a massive explosion happened. It brought about large-scale spatial fluctuations, and even the spatial barriers around couldn't stop it. It affected the core region of the Holy Land, and it forced Shang Xia and everyone else who was cultivating to snap awake.

"What's going on?"

"Is the Yanlin Holy Land under attack?"

"Did the experts of the Azure Flame World feel uneasy and start attacking?"

"No... This doesn't seem right. If they chose to attack, we should have received news of their presence a long time ago!"

"..."

Several Martial Dipper Realm experts who restored a good portion of their strength decided to head out to take a look, but several voice transmissions quickly arrived to inform them of what was going on.

“Someone is actually attempting a sneak attack!”

“Are they the survivors of the Yanlin Clan?”

“Why would they dare to do something like this? They should be hiding in god knows where now, afraid that we will find them!”

“The experts from other continents seem to be attacking! The previous attack seemed to be a probe...”

“They seem more like they’re trying to create chaos to stop us from transforming the Yanlin City.”

“This only proves that they discovered what we’re doing and they’re just testing the waters at the moment. They should still have more experts behind them and they might have already formed an alliance and will be ready to attack us soon...”

“Is it something that we should be surprised by? Wasn’t it going to happen anyway? Why the hell would we modify the city?”

“Ahem... Actually, things seem to have been sped up because of our young friend Shang...”

“...”

Shang Xia was eavesdropping on them at the moment, but he didn’t think that he would become their topic of conversation!

Why the hell am I the cause of their probing attacks?!

“Why is that the case? Other than taking down the city wall, young friend Shang didn’t take part in too many operations. He has been focused on controlling the Origin Holy Artifact the entire time...” Other Martial Dipper Realm experts quickly came to speak for him.

The first Martial Dipper Realm expert who brought up the topic chuckled in response. “Who would expect young friend Shang to be able to control world origin to a greater degree than Patriarch Kou? I’m afraid that he went too hard when absorbing world origin and caused the World’s Will to feel a sense of threat. The peak-tier experts of the Azure Flame World would definitely receive feedback from the World’s Will and take action...”

“That’s where you’re wrong. It’s a good thing that young friend Shang is able to increase the speed at which we’re absorbing world origin. This isn’t our territory, and the longer we drag things out, the worse it will be.” Other Martial Dipper Realm experts retorted.

“Exactly! We can’t blame him for this! The faster he absorbs world origin, the better!” Several others chimed in and roared with laughter.

The person who spoke first also laughed, indicating that everything he said earlier was a joke.

Shang Xia couldn’t help but join in the laughter. “Many thanks for seniors’ praise...”

After he was done, Shang Xia no longer cared about their conversations as he started to focus on absorbing world origin.

Intentionally or unintentionally, everyone gave him some sort of reminder. He needed to try his best to absorb world origin to accomplish their goals of being in the Azure Flame World.

Shang Xia agreed with many of the things they said. Now that the experts from the other continents tried to disrupt their plans, it meant that they were starting to form an alliance.

Since that was the case, the faster he absorbed world origin, the better!

After thinking about it for a moment, Shang Xia gave up trying to open the bronze book. It was a great source of distraction, and it would exhaust a good amount of his Five Element Dipper Qi.

As for the Crimson Soul Tablet in his mind, it stopped caring about the world origin pouring out from the Azure Flame World some time ago. It was as though his guess was right and it was merely having a taste of it because it came from a different world.

Shang Xia maintained the speed at which he was absorbing world origin while changing his focus on refining his seventh set of fate dipper essences!

That was right! After 2 massive battles that passed, along with the gains Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia gained along the way, the number of fate dipper essences he managed to gather reached a terrifying level! He managed to gather an entire set of fate dipper essence for his cultivation!

As he refined more and more fate dipper essences, his cultivation increased proportionally and he got closer and closer to the large completion stage. Refining fate dipper essences wasn’t as difficult as before, and the speed of refinement actually reached a terrifying level!

His way of cultivation was vastly different from other Martial Dipper Realm experts. As their cultivation bases increased, Martial Dipper Realm experts realized a drop in their cultivation speed. The more they were afraid of following through with their cultivation, the greater the risk of experiencing an imbalance in their fate dippers and experiencing cultivation deviation. It wasn’t strange for one to be stuck at the same level for tens of years!

With Shang Xia’s theory of the five elements, he didn’t have to consider anything like that at all! Instead, the closer he got to the large completion stage, the more confident he became of his cultivation path!

...

The third batch of experts came to restore their energy around the Stellar Cauldron as the earlier batch left. There were many Martial Extermination Realm experts in the third batch, and with his frightening cultivation speed, his refinement of his fate dipper essences was coming to an end.

The world origin in the Yanlin Holy Land had been completely transformed by that point, and the experts from the Azure Ascension World could cultivate however they wanted within.

That wasn't all. The heaven and earth spiritual qi in the city had pretty much been converted and the experts of the Azure Ascension World didn't feel as foreign as before.

A direct impact of the transformation was the grand formation of the Yanlin City. After the modifications, it was able to display its full power. It would play a very important part in defending against the upcoming siege from the experts of the Azure Flame World.

With the probes giving the experts of the Azure Flame World more and more information about the Yanlin City, they understood that the city was extremely well fortified. There were some who came alone and were forced to back away before they could arrive in the vicinity of the city.

Along with Shang Xia's continuous absorption of world origin, the heaven and earth spiritual qi in the Azure Flame World started to weaken slightly. It might be slight, but experts at their level could clearly feel the difference.

He was also about to refine his seventh set of fate dipper essences, and the speed of absorption of the Origin Holy Artifact rose in intensity yet again.

This time, the experts of the Azure Flame World didn't need to continue their speculation. The goal of the outsiders was clear for all to see.

Probing attacks no longer fell on the city as often, but the experts of the Azure Ascension World in the city didn't dare to relax in the slightest. Instead, they raised their guard.

All of them knew that the great battle that would decide if they could return to the Azure Ascension World and help its ascension was about to arrive.

Everyone was storing energy to the best of their abilities for the critical moment, and a loud blast suddenly resounded from the depths of the Azure Flame World. It was as though a giant gong was reverberating violently.

The experts in the city felt the density of heaven and earth spiritual qi around them rising rapidly, and it seemed as though Shang Xia created a massive whirlpool in the World Origin Source and connected it to the Yanlin City.

"What's happening?!"

"What's going on?!"

"Did something happen to young friend Shang?!"

"Quickly! Go take a look!"

The atmosphere changed instantly. Even though the situation seemed to benefit the experts of the Azure Ascension World, all of them were feeling uneasy. No one liked a sudden change in the situation right before a grand battle, much less one that felt like a backlash from the world!

Shockingly enough, none of them knew that even though the sudden change caused them to panic, the experts of the Azure Flame World who were outside the city felt their hearts leaping out of their chests.

That was because they felt the sudden dip in heaven and earth spiritual qi in their world once again, and this time, it was decreasing at a frightening pace.

The feeling wasn't limited to those in the Fifth or Fourth Order of the Primary Realm. Even those in the Third or Second Order of the Primary Realm felt it! Fear immediately settled in their hearts.

When the experts on both sides were experiencing different levels of shock, Shang Xia, who was in the Yanlin Holy Land, opened his eyes. The massive qi wave that appeared earlier because of the sudden increase in absorption was quickly controlled by him.

He finally completed the refinement of his seventh set of fate dipper essences, and the second it happened, he discovered that his control over world origin increased yet again! It reached a horrifying level that would leave everyone tongue-tied.