

The Heavens 861

Chapter 861: 70 Percent? 90 Percent? ??

Buzz...

The Stellar Cauldron started to buzz with greater intensity beneath his feet.

This time, it sounded a lot clearer than before. It was as though it was letting out a scream of contentment and excitement.

Around the altar, the experts who were cultivating were shocked awake as they stared in the direction of the Stellar Cauldron with looks of confusion.

They felt a trace of fear washing over them earlier, but it disappeared as quickly as it arrived. However, they were sure that they weren't mistaken. After all, at their level, it would be difficult to mistake something like that.

What they wanted to know was the change that happened to Shang Xia!

When they turned to look at him, they discovered that Shang Xia's body seemed a lot more incorporeal and they couldn't actually feel his presence.

Their gazes were quickly drawn to the Origin Holy Artifact under him.

It was emitting brilliant rays at the moment and the rust around it was slowly fading.

After absorbing enough world origin, the Origin Holy Artifact was experiencing some sort of transformation! It seemed to be able to restore itself to a certain extent!

Shang Xia couldn't help but think about his Crimson Soul Tablet. Could it be a treasure at the level of an Origin Holy Artifact?!

However, the thought dissipated the moment it appeared. The Crimson Soul Tablet didn't seem to be satisfied with the world origin of Azure Worlds. Wouldn't that mean that the Crimson Soul Tablet was of better quality than the Stellar Cauldron?

Even though many thoughts were running through his mind, he didn't stop absorbing world origin. With the increase in his cultivation, the absorption of world origin sped up even more.

World origin poured into the Stellar Cauldron in an unstoppable tide. Perhaps it was because the Origin Holy Artifact couldn't convert it fast enough, or the cauldron didn't have time to store it, but it started to spill out into the Holy Land.

From the looks of it, the Stellar Cauldron seemed to be overstuffed!

That wasn't all. The world origin inside the cauldron also seemed to reach a saturation point and Gong Xinlan, who was recovering within, was unable to get used to the environment. She had no choice but to fly out of the cauldron.

Liu Qinglan still remained within, but that was because she was still unconscious. Shang Xia sealed off the space around her, ensuring that she wouldn't be affected by the sudden change.

The sudden change came as a shock to the members around the cauldron. When Gong Xinlan emerged, they didn't expect the Tongyou Institution to be hiding another Martial Dipper Realm expert!

Counting Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia, along with the Lightning Bird, would mean that there were 4 experts with combat abilities in the Martial Dipper Realm from the Tongyou Institution!

If they included Ji Wenlong and Shang Bo who were in the Azure Ascension World...

With the fighting strength they had, they could be considered the number 1 Holy Land under the 4 Elysiums!

Of course, Gong Xinlan's identity was no secret to those of the Azure Ascension World. Many people recognized her and her relationship with the Yuanchen Sect, and they started to wonder if the Tongyou Institution was actually related to them.

Gong Xinlan might not know what they were thinking, but she couldn't care about it at the moment. With the dense world origin in the cauldron, she completed the refinement of her second fate dipper. Her cultivation also returned to the second element of the Martial Dipper Realm.

Kou Chongxue got her to focus on cultivating in the cauldron back then not just because he wanted her to recover quickly. He was also using her as his hidden trump card.

Unfortunately, she couldn't remain inside any longer and she showed her face. The hidden trump card was revealed and any sense of surprise was gone.

When she looked at Shang Xia, a deep light flashed in her eyes and she was secretly shocked. It seemed as though there was no need for her to remain as the Tongyou Institution's trump card...

Dense world origin poured out from the Stellar Cauldron and raised a storm in the Yanlin Holy Land. It even poured out and flooded the city.

The happenings in the Yanlin Holy Land attracted the attention of many experts and Kou Chongxue rushed over the next second.

Staring at Shang Xia, Kou Chongxue asked, "What's going on?!" The next second, a strange light flashed in his eyes. He clearly felt the change with Shang Xia, but he wasn't certain.

Shang Xia swept his gaze around him and noticed that everyone was trying to hide their stares from intruding on their conversation. However, there was nothing to worry about as their conversation seemed to be sealed off in the void. No one would be able to hear anything they were saying to each other.

"I completed the refinement of my seventh set of fate dipper essence and all of you experienced what happened next. There were no signs of it before I completed the refinement, and I wasn't able to prepare myself." Shang Xia then explained what he experienced earlier.

Falling silent, Kou Chongxue seemed to have guessed the change that happened to Shang Xia. "Do you know that many Martial Dipper Realm experts aren't able to fully convert their cultivation realm to their actual combat strength even after refining their fate dippers?"

The sudden question caught Shang Xia off guard.

Kou Chongxue glanced at him from the corner of his eye and asked again, "Even though a martial Dipper Realm expert's cultivation realm is dependent on the number of fate dippers they refined, what do you think has the greatest impact on them?"

Shang Xia thought for a second before replying, “Is it the quality of their fate dippers? Is it related to the resonance they have with each other? Their skills also play a part, including their rank five arts, martial arts, and their weapons...”

Kou Chongxue nodded slowly. “Everything you said is correct. However, there’s another important thing you’re overlooking. That’s their ability to make full use of their fate dippers and display their full strength!”

Seeing the look of contemplation on Shang Xia’s face, Kou Chongxue continued, “Normally, every Martial Dipper Realm expert can use their fate dippers to a certain extent. There is a benchmark we use, and that’s the 70 percent mark. Experts are split into 2 groups. Those who are unable to make use of 70 percent of their fate dippers, and those who are able to go beyond that.”

Shang Xia raised his head to stare at Kou Chongxue in shock, and he saw the complex look in Kou Chongxue’s eyes.

After some time, Shang Xia mumbled, “Which means to say... After refining my seventh set of fate dipper essences, my strength can be said to be comparable to someone in the fifth element of the martial Dipper Realm?!”

Kou Chongxue nodded instinctively, but he quickly recalled something and he shook his head. Forcing a chuckle, he muttered, “Actually, you’re different.”

As for how different he was and where the difference lay, Kou Chongxue didn’t explain, and Shang Xia didn’t ask.

Kou Chongxue knew that ever since Shang Xia entered the Fifth Order of the Primary Realm, he was taking a different path from everyone else. He also knew that the youngster was refining everything at once!

Instead of refining 5 fate dippers, Shang Xia was refining 10 types of fate dipper essences.

That would mean that after his seventh set of fate dipper essences, he should be comparable to someone who refined 7 complete fate dippers, but obviously, the math didn’t work that way.

Even so, how terrifying was that?!

What Shang Xia gained from their entire conversation earlier was the part about how far one would be able to use their fate dippers. After he refined the seventh set, he was able to fully utilize their power because of his way of cultivation of the Five Elements. That placed him in the category of cultivators who were of exceptional quality!

He soon thought of another interesting question and he laughed, “Patriarch Kou, speaking of which, how much of your fate dippers can you use?”

With a grin on his face, Kou Chongxue replied, “I should barely surpass the 90 percent mark.”

“Oh.” Shang Xia wasn’t actually surprised by his answer.

Chapter 862: They’re Here!

After Kou Chongxue’s explanation, Shang Xia pretty much understood what happened to him earlier.

At the same time, he also understood that the truly powerful Martial Dipper Realm experts would only be able to display 80 percent or so of the power contained in their fate dippers.

The factor that decided how much they would be able to utilize their fate dippers came from their compatibility with the fate dippers they refined.

After Kou Chongxue's confirmation, Shang Xia could understand that one's martial path also seemed to be related to the types of martial arts they should be using.

A powerless sigh left Shang Xia's lips after learning what he did. If he wasn't wrong, when he informed Kou Chongxue about the theories of the five elements, the patriarch had already reached the third element of the Martial Dipper Realm.

It seemed as though he was really the child of luck of the You Continent! Even though he had already progressed more than halfway through the Martial Dipper Realm, he was still able to return to the correct path and unleash more than 90 percent of the power of his fate dippers!

It wasn't as though Shang Xia wasn't surprised by the feat. It was just that he was numb to the surprise Kou Chongxue brought him.

Once he was done learning what happened to Shang Xia, Kou Chongxue went to inspect Liu Qinglan's injuries. He wasn't in a rush to leave even though he saw that she showed no signs of waking. Instead, he worked together with Shang Xia to compress the world origin in the cauldron.

The Stellar cauldron naturally had the ability to store a massive amount of world origin. Otherwise, it wouldn't be able to provide for an Elysium.

Shang Xia had only been concerned with absorbing and transforming world origin from the Azure Flame World earlier, and he merely stored whatever he could without being too bothered by it.

In actuality, the world origin that was stored could be compressed and turned into a mini sea of world origin.

One would need a lot of effort in order to do so, and Shang Xia just didn't have the time to do so earlier!

Now that his cultivation reached the next level and the speed of absorption reached a ridiculous rate, he finally discovered how much world origin was leaking out from the cauldron.

Fortunately, Kou Chongxue came quickly and with their combined efforts, the world origin in the cauldron was compressed to the point where it turned into a small pool. With the conversion, he would be able to store more world origin.

Taking a look at their work, Shang Xia discovered that they had only filled a third of the cauldron!

"The world origin here will only allow us to make one round trip between the Azure Ascension World and the Azure Flame World!" Shang Xia sighed. No one knew if he was complaining about the difficulty obtaining enough world origin or if he felt that too much world origin needed to be used to transfer them over.

Making some secret calculations, if he filled a third of the cauldron with world origin, he would be able to transport more than 100 experts between the worlds. That would mean that if they filled the cauldron, they would only be able to complete 6 transfers.

A trace of doubt formed in Shang Xia's mind and he asked worriedly, "Patriarch, if we want our Azure Ascension World to ascend, will we be able to store enough world origin in the Stellar Cauldron?"

"Relax. Our world is only a step away from ascension. The Sixth Order Ancestors made a rough calculation in the past and I did my own math. We should need two-thirds of the cauldron to be full of world origin if we want the Azure Ascension World to ascend!"

"Two-thirds?" Shang Xia peeked into the cauldron that was still filling up and he muttered, "So... That would mean that we already have half of what we need! No, wait... We need to take into account the world origin required to transfer us back. That would mean that we would need to fill three-quarters of the cauldron with world origin..."

Kou Chongxue chuckled, "That's about right. Now that your cultivation has reached a new level, and the world origin in the Holy Land and city has fully transformed, the time needed to fill up the cauldron will be much less than before!"

Shang Xia understood that filling up two-thirds of the cauldron was probably Kou Chongxue's goal all along from how nonchalant he was acting.

That would mean that the Azure Ascension World was truly a step away from completing the process!

After compressing world origin with Shang Xia, Kou Chongxue brought Gong Xinlan and left in a hurry. With the massive disturbance Shang Xia caused, the Azure Flame World should have been alerted to whatever they were doing. The battle would break out extremely soon. Kou Chongxue, Lu Wuzi, Yifeng, Jiudu, Huang Jinghan, and the others were ready for battle!

Also, Gong Xinlan restored her cultivation and was at the second element of the Martial Dipper Realm. At critical moments like that, no one could ignore her combat abilities!

As for the situation between her and the Yuanchen Sect, Kou Chongxue believed that Huang Jinghan and the others would be able to make the right decision. After all, she didn't betray them. They were the ones who abandoned her.

After Kou Chongxue left, Shang Xia started to focus and he drew upon the world origin from the Azure Flame World with everything he had.

He didn't know if he was imagining things, but he felt that the sea of world origin actually decreased a little.

The more he absorbed world origin, the clearer he could feel a sense of fear and rage directed at him from the World's Will. The feeling was even starting to cloud his judgment.

With a trace of shock in his heart, Shang Xia understood that the World's Will was starting to counterattack. The feeling it gave off was of wanting to assimilate with Shang Xia's divine will, and he was getting a little confused.

Isn't this... Isn't this something that will only happen to peak-tier experts at the Martial Dipper Realm?

Could the World's Will have already determined Shang Xia to be at the peak of the Martial Dipper Realm?

Thinking back to what Kou Chongxue said earlier, Shang Xia recalled how he mentioned most Martial Dipper Realm experts would only be able to utilize 70 percent of their fate dippers! Now that he surpassed that...

The sudden change caused him to no longer dare to draw world origin like what he was doing earlier. Other than separating a portion of his attention to observe the amount of world origin the cauldron contained, he could do a lot more now that he wasn't going to use his full strength to absorb world origin. He split off a portion of his consciousness to attempt to open the bronze book.

Back then, Shang Xia stopped trying to open the book in order to refine his seventh set of fate dipper essences. With his cultivation reaching a new level, attempting to destroy the restriction on the book became much easier. He also had to include the fact that his Five Element Dipper Qi was extremely effective when it came to getting rid of restrictions.

As five colored light poured into the book, it also started to emit rays of light. When the light reached a certain intensity, the book finally flipped open.

When Shang Xia tried to read the contents of the book, he was interrupted by a massive blast that came from outside the Yanlin Holy Land.

It was extremely clear at that point that the Azure Flame World's assault had begun!

Chapter 863: Land of Star Origin

In a certain location in the Azure Ascension World...

A ball of clear light tore open the void and entered a spot where there were 3 other balls of different colored lights already waiting.

"I apologize for being late!" The last ball of light said the moment it arrived.

"From the looks of it, Master Yuan Chen managed to consolidate your foundations. Your strength increased greatly... This is truly something to celebrate!" The voice came from another one of the balls of light that would occasionally flash with dark light that formed the shape of a palace.

'Master Yuan Chen' seemed to hesitate slightly in his light ball form, but he quickly adjusted to the situation. He mumbled humbly, "I haven't been in this cultivation realm for long and I am completely lost in the Sixth Order. I hope all of you will point me in the right direction in the future..."

"Sixth Order?!" One of the other light balls snorted. "All of us have no idea what we're doing either and we're feeling our way around. How are we supposed to teach you anything? However..."

"What?" The clear ball of light chased.

Another ball of light that seemed hazy pointed out, "There's a pretty good opportunity for us if Kou Chongxue is really able to return!"

"World ascension?" The clear ball of light gasped.

"That's right." The hazy light continued. "The moment the world ascension succeeds, we will definitely gain a lot!"

The ball of clear light fell silent for some time. A moment later, it started to speak again. "I'm afraid the moment our world completes its ascension, Kou Chongxue will also step through the bottleneck..."

None of the other light balls retorted.

Eventually, the first ball of light that was emitting deep light broke the silence. "Master Xuan Sheng, Master Jidao, did you manage to obtain a lot in the Land of Star Origin?"

The ball of clear light shook once, and a curious voice rang through the air. "What is the Land of Star Origin?"

The others didn't answer him immediately.

Finally, the last ball of light that hadn't spoken since the start emitted 3 small specks of light. The ball seemed to contain a scarlet streak of light and the specks quickly expanded to swallow the others. A voice that contained some sort of imposing might rang in the minds of the others. "This is everything we managed to learn about the Spirit Abundance World from the Land of Star Origin."

Another 3 specks of light came from the hazy ball. "We can be sure of one thing. The world Kou Chongxue found definitely has an Elysium. However, we have no idea which it is, and everything recorded in the specks of light contains all we know about worlds with Elysiums that have been exposed. As for the position of the worlds in the sea of stars... No one actually knows where each one of them is located. Unless..."

"... Unless we manage to find them on a Star Map!" The other ball of light completed the sentence.

Since they started speaking, the clear ball of light didn't say a word. He seemed to be listening to the others talk.

Finally, the starlet streak light ball muttered in a low voice, "As long as an Elysium has a Star Observatory, it will definitely leave behind a Star Map. The Celestial Remains had a Star Observatory, and there would definitely be one contained within."

The hazy ball of light followed up, "But... We never heard of the appearance of any Star Map from the Celestial Remains!"

"The existence of every single Star Map records the experiences of the Stargazer of the Elysium. Unless we find it, we won't be able to know which world Kou Chongxue and the others went to. Even if the Star Map exists, it will most likely have fallen into Kou Chongxue's hands." The light ball that was flashing with a dark light added.

The Sixth Order Ancestors fell silent the next moment.

After a short while, the hazy ball of light seemed to have thought of something and he turned to the clear ball of light to ask, “Master Yuan Chen, you should know a lot more about the Celestial Remains than us. Do you know if the Star Map exists in the Celestial Remains?”

The clear ball of light seemed to snap awake as he replied in haste, “No...”

Slightly disappointed, the hazy ball of light mumbled, “It’s a shame then. I was thinking that you managed to grow stronger because you found something within the Celestial Remains...”

“Master Jidao, you jest...” The clear ball of light released a dry laugh in response.

Master Wei Yang of the Eternal Palace interrupted, “The Spirit Abundance World has 9 Elysiums in total, and they are estimated to have at least 18 Sixth Order experts. On average, there are 2 of them in each Elysium!”

The ball that contained scarlet light which represented Master Xuan Sheng from the Northern Sea Mystic Sect continued, “That might not be the case. No one said that the Sixth Order existences there have to be from an Elysium!”

Once again, they sank into silence.

For one to be able to step into the Sixth Order without being in an Elysium... What did that mean for the 4 of them?!

That would mean that the Spirit Abundance World has a way to enter the Sixth Order without relying on an Elysium! They had a more complete inheritance for the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm!

Master Jidao who was represented by the hazy light, grunted once and continued, “Evenone, if Kou Chongxue is truly able to enter the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm after he returns, would that mean that he would have escaped the limitations of an Elysium?”

What he said was like a bomb that went off in the minds of everyone present.

No one knew if it was intentional or not, but a moment later, Liu Jingsheng, who was ‘Master Yuan Chen’, gasped, “18 experts in the Sixth Order... They might even have more than that... According to what we know, only 3 Elysiums took part in their attempt to invade us the first time! They are the Emptiness Drifting Mountain, Azure Island, and the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake! If the 9 Elysiums work together, how are we supposed to fight back?!”

Master Jidao sighed, “That might be so, but there is no need for us to panic for nothing. It’s not like they have nothing holding them back. Even if they try to invade again, they will have to retain enough fighting strength to scare their enemies off.”

The ball that flashed with dark light couldn’t help but release a laugh. “In that case, we should be hoping for Kou Chongxue to enter the Sixth Order as quickly as possible and return to our Azure Ascension World... Is that it?”

The ball that contained the scarlet light added suddenly, “The Star Observatory is the key! If I were the experts of the Spirit Abundance World, I would try to destroy the Star Observatory as quickly as possible!”

Master Wei Yang agreed. “That’s not all. The location of the Star Observatory is also where a weakness of our world lies. Originally, it should have been blocked off by the Celestial Remains...”

“Since that’s the case, it’s time for us to take turns to stand guard there!” Master Jidao growled.

As though they reached an agreement beforehand, every other ball of light disappeared, leaving behind Liu Jingsheng in the clear ball of light. He stared at the void where they left and yelled helplessly, “Come on! At least tell me what the Land of Star Origin is!”

Chapter 864: Start of Battle

The experts of the Azure Ascension World who were currently in the Azure Flame World obviously didn’t know the danger their home world was facing. However, they didn’t have time to care about that at the moment.

The number of Martial Dipper Realm experts who gathered in the Yanlin City finally numbered more than 30.

After the battles that took place, the experts of the Azure Ascension World took a huge hit and they had less than 30 Martial Dipper Realm experts left. However, they gained an advantage over those in the Azure Flame World during the battles, and they even raided the accumulations of the Yanlin Clan. They managed to gain a good number of Fate Dippers and high level herbs.

With everything they obtained, along with the transformation of world origin in the Yanlin Holy Land and City caused by Shang Xia, those who were injured during the battle earlier managed to restore their cultivation and combat strength.

At the same time, with Kou Chongxue and other peak-tier experts, they managed to produce several rank five advancement medicines. Along with the complete Origin Dippers, those Martial Extermination Realm experts who were at the peak of their realm managed to step into the Martial Dipper Realm.

Of course, the only reason they had so many resources available to them was because of the special situation they were in. It was the opportunity of a lifetime.

Naturally, when Kou Chongxue and the rest chose those who had a chance to step into the Martial Dipper Realm, they had their own considerations. For example, they would choose the juniors of those who died previously to attempt the breakthrough.

No matter how hard they tried, those who just broke through didn’t have much time to consolidate their foundations and properly get used to their new strength. Whatever it was, no matter how weak a Martial Dipper Realm expert was, they would be much stronger than those in the Martial Extermination Realm. Even if they were unable to take part in the battle immediately, they would be able to assist the Formation Grandmasters to control the grand formation to reduce the threat of those from the Azure Flame World.

When Shang Xia completed the refinement of his seventh set of fate dipper essences back then, a portion of those who were around the cauldron were those who just managed to advance.

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In the Yanlin Holy Land, Shang Xia knew that the experts of the Azure Flame World had already surrounded the city and were starting their attack. However, his most important task at the moment was to control the Stellar Cauldron to continue absorbing world origin.

Despite the rumbling earth and shattering space caused by the battle outside, he maintained his current state while absorbing world origin. The battle was so intense that the fluctuations couldn't be completely blocked off by the defenses around the Holy Land, but nothing else mattered to Shang Xia at the moment.

Not only did he have to store the world origin he was absorbing, he would also have to complete the transformation and inject a portion into the Yanlin Holy Land.

Other than him, there was a Martial Extermination Realm who remained. They were those who received heavy injuries because of the battle outside. There was also Liu Qinglan who was still unconscious.

After considering those from the Azure Ascension World, there were also clansmen of the Yanlin Clan and Yanlin Ju whose cultivation had been sealed.

There were close to 100,000 members of the Yanlin Clan in the Holy Land. Their sheer numbers were also one of the reasons the experts of the Azure Ascension World chose not to kill them all.

According to what Yanlin Ju said, there were a lot more of them to begin with. They lost a portion due to the attack from the experts from the Azure Ascension World, and after that, another portion escaped. Those who remained were presently in the Yanlin Holy Land.

Shang Xia didn't think that they would be able to cause any trouble at the moment. That wasn't just because the cultivators among them had their cultivations sealed and were trapped inside some sort of formation. He was so confident due to the world origin that filled the Yanlin Holy Land. Because it contained the properties of the Azure Ascension World after being transformed by the Stellar Cauldron, it managed to weaken those from the Yanlin Clan.

No longer so focused on absorbing world origin after the scare he received back then, Shang Xia placed a good portion of his attention on the bronze book after shattering the layer of restriction on it.

However, he soon discovered that the restriction he got rid of was only on the cover of the book, and he was only able to flip open the first page!

Looking at it, he noticed tiny carvings on it that seemed pretty similar to the Star Observatory of the Celestial Remains before it was destroyed.

"Could this carving be of the Star Observatory itself?" Shang Xia pondered. He continued to examine the first page and noticed that there was a diagram of the sea of stars above the tiny observatory carved into the bottom of the page. There were several stars that seemed a little more eye-catching.

"Hmm... From the looks of it, these markings seem to be of a certain spot in space. Where do they actually lead to?" Shang Xia wondered out loud. He was unable to discern much from the first page and the carvings and he silently thought to himself, *Do I need to return to the observatory in the Azure Ascension World in order to verify these things? Perhaps... Perhaps I need to continue breaking the restrictions to look at the information recorded in the other pages...*

Reaching out slowly, he ran his fingers over the carvings. He was afraid that he wouldn't be able to verify the information recorded even after he returned. If what was carved into the book were locations in the vast sea of stars, he would need the help of a Stargazer for sure!

The thought of breaking more restrictions to open the other pages flashed through his mind. However, he wasn't sure if he should do it. After all, he could feel that he would need to use a lot more Five Element Dipper Qi if he wished to continue breaking the formations. It might affect the amount of world origin he could absorb from the Azure Flame World.

"Huh?" Shang Xia gasped suddenly. While running his fingers over the carvings, he faintly sensed a portion of his divine will being sucked into the page.

With his interest piqued, Shang Xia started to examine the book more carefully. He soon discovered that the page wasn't the thing affecting his divine will. Instead, it was the carving on the page itself.

After repeated tests to ensure there was no trap, he sent a trace of his divine will into the carving on the page.

He felt his mind going fuzzy the next second as his vision started to spin. By the time he could see clearly again, he noticed that he had already appeared on a Star Observatory.

"This..." It didn't take him long to notice that he was standing in an observatory similar to the Ruined Observatory in the Celestial Remains.

"No... This isn't merely similar... It's exactly the same as the one carved into the page! Actually, it feels brand new... the Ruined Observatory was covered in debris, but this place is perfectly intact!" Shang Xia gasped while looking around him.

He soon noticed a gray mist surrounding the observatory with his divine will, blocking off everything past it.

The Starry Tree that existed in the Ruined Observatory was nowhere to be seen, and Star Essence Water was also absent.

However...

When Shang Xia raised his head, he noticed the amazing sight above him. Stars were sparking in the darkness and with a slight intention, they seemed to be pulled towards him. Several exceptionally bright stars appeared clearly in his sights and they seemed to point out their exact positions.

As he continued to reach his divine will further, those stars seemed to be pulled even closer to himself.

"Land of Star Origin... Reason for establishment... Communication between the worlds..." Several words appeared from the earth below and were detected by his divine will.

"There seems to be a location recorded in it called the Land of Star Origin. It seems to be a central location various worlds use to communicate with each other..." Shang Xia was slightly taken aback as he looked at his left palm instinctively.

Why is the Land of Star Origin so similar to the 'Transit Grounds Huang Yu described?

The location of the Transit Grounds had been imprinted into his palm by Huang Yu in the past, but in order to get there, one would have to make use of the Star Observatory to lock down its position in space. Moreover, a long-range transfer like that wasn't going to be easy.

Whatever it was, Shang Xia was sure of one thing after careful observation. The location of the Land of Star Origin recorded in the bronze book wasn't the exact spot where the Transit Grounds was!

As such, Shang Xia examined the first page of the book again and thought to himself. *If the first page of the book recorded the location of the Land of Star Origin, would that mean that every page after that would record special locations in space?*

Other than the Land of Star Origin, could there be places like the Azure Flame World? Actually... Could there be more than Azure Worlds recorded in it? Could there also be Spirit Worlds, and even higher existences...

Shang Xia felt a wave surging in his heart. He had an impulse to fully concentrate on opening the restrictions in the bronze book so that he could learn of the secrets contained within.

Fortunately, his sense of reasoning quickly allowed him to close the book. He threw the thought of breaking the restrictions around the pages to the back of his mind as he continued to draw enough world origin such that the World's Will wouldn't go crazy. He also started to focus on the battle that was going on outside.

Naturally, the Yanlin Holy Land couldn't stop Shang Xia from learning of the situation outside. When his divine will emerged, he could tell that the Yanlin City wasn't in the best of situations at the moment.

Surprised, Shang Xia couldn't help but extend his divine will even further. He noticed numerous ships floating in mid air as they surrounded the city.

Shang Xia knew that Sun Haiwei and the others managed to obtain a flying ship during their battle above the sea north of the city, but he didn't think that the Azure Flame World possessed even bigger ships.

There was no need to compare the ship Sun Haiwei obtained to the ships surrounding them.

Soon after, another thought flashed in Shang Xia's mind.

Is it even possible for the Yanlin Clan to not possess a single one of those ships? As one of the 3 superpowers of the Azure Flame World, there was no way they didn't possess any!

From the looks of it, Yanlin Ju was still hiding a lot of secrets from them!

From how everything was looking, it wasn't time to confront Yanlin Ju. Along with the giant ships closing in on the city, the experts of the Azure Ascension World seemed to be forced on the back foot and were finding it hard to resist the invasion.

If things kept up, even if Kou Chongxue and other peak-tier experts gave it their all, they wouldn't be able to hold out for a long time.

None of them expected the Azure Flame World to hide such a powerful trump card!

They had to think of a way to turn the tables. If they were able to take down a single one of those flying ships, the experts of the Azure Flame World might reconsider their reckless attack. At the very least, the other ships might be too afraid to come close to the Yanlin City for fear of being shot down.

As Shang Xia thought of a plan, Kou Chongxue and the others had already started to take action.

Chapter 865: Five Element Clone?

Kou Chongxue had been hiding in the Azure Flame World for some time now and he was sure that they were an ordinary Azure World that couldn't be compared to the Azure Ascension World that stood at the peak of all Azure Worlds.

That was why he had the guts to drag tens of experts in the Martial Dipper Realm into his plan to attack the Azure Flame World.

From the time they tore open the heavenly screen, to the time they took over the Yanlin City. They even successfully connected to the World Origin Source of the Azure Flame World. Everything went according to plan. As the reinforcements of the Azure Flame World came extremely late as they held each other back, the experts of the Azure Ascension World were starting to underestimate the experts of the Azure Flame World.

Their sense of superiority was quickly wiped away by the 4 super flying ships that were closing in on the city!

Even with Kou Chongxue's years of experience as a spy in the Azure Flame World, he never heard of the existence of those ships in the 4 continents of the Azure Flame World.

When they suddenly descended and rushed at the Yanlin City, the experts of the Azure Ascension World were caught off guard and didn't know how to defend. Their plan was to shatter the defenses of the city for the experts of the Azure Flame World to swarm in at the same time.

Fortunately, Kou Chongxue, Lu Wuzi, Jiu Du, Yifeng, and Huang Jinghan made their moves. They borrowed the power of the grand formation to meet those giant ships head-on, and were nearly injured in the process. The experts of the Azure Ascension World also reacted quickly as they started their counterattack. They managed to stall the ships and force them further out, but the sense of pressure they brought about didn't disappear as they hovered in the skies above.

At the same time, at least 50 Martial Sages rushed out from those ships as they started to attack the Yanlin City.

Naturally, there were still several Martial Sages standing guard on the ships. Among them, there were at least 6 fourth soul Martial Sages if they didn't count Yuancang Ming who was at the peak of his cultivation realm.

Yanlin Jue was among those experts, and he was a survivor of the Beast Tide and the sudden ambush by the members of the Azure Ascension World. Chenxing Yue from the Western Wenchen Continent was also there. Jiwu Gou From the Eastern Nuanyuan Continent, Zhang Shihu and Qiubai Xiong were from the Northern Chihuang Continent were also ready for battle. There was also another wandering expert who called himself the Heavenly Sea Guest among them.

Heavenly Sea Guest was an expert at the fourth soul of the Martial Sage Realm, but no one could catch his tracks. Yuancang Ming and the others heard of him, but it was their first time seeing him in person during their raid on the Yanlin City.

The 4 giant ships that hovered above the city housed 7 experts at the fourth soul of the Martial Sage Realm or higher. With 40 or so additional Martial Sages attacking the city, the Yanlin City was immediately thrown into a dire situation.

Kou Chongxue and the others were forcefully holding on and the experts of the Azure Ascension World had the assistance of the grand formation around the city. With the abundant world origin that was pouring out from the Yanlin Holy Land, they managed to barely hold on.

Looking at the situation in front of them, they were afraid that it wouldn't take long for the experts of the Azure Flame World to successfully invade the city.

According to Shang Xia's calculations, even if he managed to hold out all the way, he would only be able to fill half the Stellar Cauldron with world origin.

If he considered the amount of world origin required to transfer everyone back to the Azure Ascension World, he wouldn't have enough for the Azure Ascension World to complete its ascension!

Moreover, he felt that if he wasn't mistaken about what was going on, Kou Chongxue would also need to use the world origin to attempt a breakthrough into the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm!

After all, Kou Chongxue had been using world origin ever since he broke through to the Martial Dipper Realm. He refined the technique a lot such that Ji Wenlong and Shang Bo could attempt the same thing.

As such, if Kou Chongxue wanted to advance, it was extremely likely that he would walk down the same path.

Whatever it was, he needed to ensure that the experts of the Azure Ascension World could hold out for a long time against the siege.

Under such circumstances, Shang Xia started to think about how he would be able to help. The only problem was that he would have to fill up the Stellar Cauldron while he was at it, while also providing world origin to support the grand formation.

Just those 2 points alone was a huge headache for him at the moment. He wasn't as affected earlier as the battle hadn't started and he didn't need to pump out so much world origin to support the formation, but things were different! He felt a little helpless despite his desire to help. He couldn't do a thing unless someone could make use of his Five Element Ring!

That was a powerful divine weapon, and it could be considered a 'Ninth Heaven Divine Weapon' in the eyes of those in the Azure Flame World. In the hands of a third element Martial Dipper Realm expert, they would be able to raise their combat prowess by at least 50 percent! That would mean that they would possess another expert whose fighting strength would be comparable to a fourth element Martial Dipper Realm expert.

Alas, the Five Element Ring was a treasure that was made specially for him!

Due to the special properties of his Five Element Dipper Qi, the Five Element Ring would only be able to display its power in his hands. If other people were to use it, it would probably be comparable to a high-grade weapon at best!

It was also why no one asked Shang Xia to borrow his weapon despite the dangerous situation they were facing. With how sharp Kou Chongxue and the others were, how could they have left out his weapon when they made their calculations?

It was just that... Shang Xia knew that if he didn't do anything, the disadvantage they had would only snowball.

Eventually, an idea was born in his mind. It was a very slight hunch he had after refining his seventh set of fate dipper essences, and now that he had no other choice, he decided to look into it.

He thought back to Kou Chongxue's words about how most Martial Dipper Realm experts would only be able to achieve 70 percent of the power their fate dippers contained.

Extrapolating the knowledge would mean that one would be able to create a fate dipper clone after they could control 70 percent of their fate dipper!

For Shang Xia who could utilize his full power and had successfully refined his seventh set of fate dipper essences, it should be possible for him to create a clone!

Even though what he refined were fate dipper essences, he wouldn't know until he tried!

If he was unable to create clones, that would mean that his path of the Five Element Realm had a clear weakness compared to the ordinary cultivation system!

After all, not only would one be able to react more suitably to whatever situation they were in if they could create a clone, but they would also be able to save their life in times of need.

In the past, Shang Xia thought that he would only be able to create clones after refining 10 sets of fate dipper essences. However...

Following his instincts, a stream of Five Element Source Essence started to flow out of his dantian. His Dipper Qi Protection Barrier started to ripple and a blurry figure started to form in front of him. Eventually, the figure became less blurry and his features could be clearly seen.

The figure before him looked mostly similar to Shang Xia, and it was merely lacking a trace of his divine will before he successfully created it. However, the next second, Shang Xia's expression changed and the figure that was just created exploded. The dipper qi in his body fluctuated wildly and he nearly suffered a backlash inside his dantian.

How...

Chapter 866: Five Element Clone!

Shang Xia felt that after he completed the refinement of his seventh set of fate dipper essences, he should have the ability to create a Fate Dipper Clone. However, reality played a cruel joke on him. Not only did he fail, he nearly suffered a serious backlash!

He was originally unwilling to believe that he would fail, and he tried several more times. Moreover, every time after that, he tried to create a clone with different properties. Unfortunately, he failed every single time.

After many failures, Shang Xia could feel the increased impact it had on him. He was starting to lose control over his inner qi and he could only forget about creating a clone.

From what he knew, after other Martial Dipper Realm experts entered their current cultivation realm and refined their second fate dipper, separating a Fate Dipper Clone wasn't anything too difficult. Even if some of them couldn't do it immediately, he never heard of anyone being injured because of it.

Who would have thought that Shang Xia would be the one to face the risks when it came time to create his clones?

To Shang Xia, it was quite a huge blow on his cultivation path in the Five Element Realm.

As he tried to calm down the rampaging Five Element Dipper Qi in his dantian, he started to reflect on his failure to create a Fate Dipper Clone.

Enlightenment seemed to descend upon him the next moment as a light flashed in his eyes. He had been trying to split off a Fate Dipper Clone with a single strand of his fate dipper essence. However, his path of cultivation was completely different from the others.

The Yin Yang attributes of the Five Elements resonated with each other, and he couldn't lack a single one.

Compared to other Martial Dipper Realm experts, Shang Xia's fate dippers should be closely linked together. That was precisely why splitting them off by element would only make it harder.

If he forced them apart, the Five Element Source in his dantian would be missing a core part, and thus affect his core strength.

Since that was the case... Would that mean that Shang Xia would be unable to create a clone unless he was truly in the large completion stage of the Five Element Realm?

The method he was using was completely opposite to the way of his martial path!

It wasn't the first time the thought entered Shang Xia's mind. When he refined his second set of fate dipper essences, he tried to create a clone. However, his attempt failed before he could see any results.

After that, he would give it a shot every time he refined a set of fate dipper essences. After failing many times in a row, he decided to shelve the idea.

He thought that he would have to wait till he refined ten sets of fate dipper essences, but he didn't expect the turning point to come after the seventh set.

Recalling the properties of the various elements and their resonance, he decided to go all in. If he failed, he wouldn't have to pay too big of a price anyway.

With a single thought, the Five Element Dipper Qi in his body started to undergo some sort of strange transformation.

Strands of energy that contained the yin and yang properties of the elements appeared as they started to intertwine to form a human-like figure.

He discovered that even though he separated a portion of his fate dipper essences, it didn't really affect him too much.

One had to know that regardless of whether or not he succeeded, his cultivation realm would drop back to the time he only refined 6 sets of fate dipper essences. Only after the power contained in the fate dipper essences returned would his cultivation be restored. As such, he was already prepared for his control over the Stellar Cauldron to weaken after he successfully created the clone. Who would have thought that it didn't actually weaken by much? He was able to forcefully maintain the terrifying speed of absorption even after the separation!

Heaving a sigh of relief, Shang Xia no longer bothered with the absorption rate for the time being. Instead, he placed most of his attention on the newly created clone.

This time, it was created with all 10 strands of fate dipper essences. It seemed to be sparkling with a five colored light and the beauty would cause anyone to miss the fact that it was nearly 80 percent similar to Shang Xia.

Shang Xia didn't understand why he was able to create a Fate Dipper Clone even before he completed the refinement of 10 sets of fate dipper essences, but the physical body of the clone was complete and he couldn't be bothered about the reason for now.

The clone could be said to be 70 percent complete, and the remaining 30 percent would come from his divine will. If he managed to imbue it with his divine will, it would truly become a clone. It would be able to split off from his true body and possess a strand of consciousness. When that happens, it would be able to make some decisions according to the situation.

Along with a sharp pain in his mind when he split off his divine will, Shang Xia frowned. However, by the time he opened his eyes again, the figure that was sparkling with five colors also opened his eyes to stare at Shang Xia.

"True body." The clone bowed towards Shang Xia and started to circulate his inner qi. He started to familiarize himself with the control of his qi. The resplendent light that coated its body started to fade away and a young cultivator who looked really similar to Shang Xia stood before him.

"We're one and the same. There's no need for such formalities." Shang Xia laughed while looking at the clone. He felt a trace of gratification washing over him.

Turning to look outside the Holy Land, his clone asked, "What do you need me to do?"

"You don't have to personally appear to fight. You just need to do all you can to assist them." Shang Xia laughed.

Nodding slightly, the clone muttered, "I need it."

Tossing the Five Element Ring at his clone, Shang Xia roared with laughter. "Of course!"

With the divine weapon in hand, his clone started to circulate his Five Element Dipper Qi. The Five Element Ring trembled once, and it didn't seem to show signs of rejection.

"Alright, I'll be off!" With a slight bow, Shang Xia's clone blurred as it passed through the entrance of the Yanlin Holy Land to enter the city.

At the moment, giant ships hovered above the city in all 4 directions. They maintained a set distance from the city, but from time to time, they would launch an attack.

The giant ship above the east of the city had 3 masts, and the phantom of a giant anchor would appear occasionally and smash at the city.

On the southern front, the giant ship seemed to be made of wood. An insane number of oars would appear on its side from time to time before rowing forward in a unified stroke. When that happened, the ship would smash directly into the city walls.

As for the ship on the west... It would release majestic flames as though it were an actual volcano!

Finally, on the north of the city, there was a multi-decked ship that would drift on the water from time to time and fly in the air occasionally. 3 massive poles could be seen on the highest deck of the ship and every time it closed in on the city, they would slam downwards.

...

The moment Shang Xia's clone appeared in the city, he attracted Kou Chongxue's attention.

Chapter 867: Qi Integration

"Why are you out here... Wait. You managed to create a clone?" Kou Chongxue stared at Shang Xia's clone with a strange gaze. Even someone like him nearly couldn't tell that it was Shang Xia's clone!

With a light chuckle, Shang Xia's clone replied, "I barely managed to do so. However, the situation doesn't seem too favorable at the moment..."

Kou Chongxue paused for a second and asked, "How is the progress in the Stellar Cauldron?"

"It just passed the halfway mark." Shang Xia's clone replied truthfully.

Staying silent for a moment, Kou Chongxue seemed to be making some calculations. After some time, he sighed, "It's not enough!"

Shang Xia's clone stared at Kou Chongxue before turning to look at the ships outside. "My true body also had the intention of dragging things out. That's why I was sent here."

"You?" Kou Chongxue started to examine the clone properly before asking again.

"What idea does he have?"

After Shang Xia refined his seventh set of fate dipper essences, Kou Chongxue could feel the shocking change in him. Deep down, he started to see Shang Xia as someone on the same level as himself.

If Shang Xia had come personally and allowed Kou Chongxue to learn of his strength, breaking out of their predicament wasn't entirely impossible.

However, the person standing before Kou Chongxue was a mere clone...

Noticing Kou Chongxue's hesitation, Shang Xia's clone tapped his chest and a soft buzz came from within his body. A five colored light appeared beneath his feet.

With his eyebrows twitching, Kou Chongxue mumbled, "Five Element Ring? The kid even let you bring this out... Are you able to control it?"

With a smile on his face, Shang Xia's clone didn't say anything. Instead, a powerful light ring emerged from beneath his feet. When Kou Chongxue was bathed in the light, his expression changed and a trace of shock and excitement flashed in his eyes.

"My abilities are limited at the moment and we should gather our strength and take down one of those ships before we do anything else." Shang Xia's clone laughed.

Falling silent for a moment, Kou Chongxue eventually mumbled, "Wait a second. I'll change up the deployment."

The words barely left his lips when he transformed into a ball of dipper qi and disappeared. A strand of divine will seemed to return to his main body as it flew through the air above the city.

With the scale of the attack they were facing, there was no way Kou Chongxue could abandon his position to speak with Shang Xia. He merely sent a clone over.

Watching Kou Chongxue's clone leave, Shang Xia's clone didn't waste time as he quickly disappeared. By the time he reappeared, he arrived at the eye of the grand formation on the highest layer of the platform.

"Why are you here?!" Chu Jia gasped in shock the moment she saw him.

She might be in the Martial Extermination Realm, but she was a Formation Grandmaster and she had the qualifications to remain on the highest platform.

Sweeping his gaze across the platform, Shang Xia looked at the other Formation Grandmasters. Other than 2 of them who were in the Martial Dipper Realm, the others were in the Martial Extermination Realm. Moreover, all of them were Formation Grandmasters.

Even so, not a single person present was able to differentiate Shang Xia's clone from his true body.

With a smile on his face, Shang Xia's clone chuckled, "I was just curious and came here to learn about something. Do you remember how the original grand formation around the city had the ability to restrict space? Now that you guys modified it, does it still possess that property?"

Chu Jia answered immediately. "Of course it does. The ability is extremely special and we won't get rid of it easily. Haven't you discovered that no matter how those ships fly around outside the city, they don't dare to fly over the city?"

"So that's it..." Shang Xia's clone nodded. "Can you project the ability and force those ships to land?"

Before Chu Jia could answer, someone behind her lost it and laughed out loud.

"If you don't know anything about formations, you shouldn't be running your mouth off here. Do you know what price we will have to pay if we try to project the ability outwards?"

Shang Xia's clone stared at the others before looking back at her. "If we just have to pay a certain price to make it happen, it's not impossible! What will happen if we try?"

The Formation Grandmaster behind Chu Jia snickered again without a change in expression. However, no other insults came.

A bitter smile formed on Chu Jia's face. "We need to modify the formation and it will definitely affect the strength of the defensive formation around the city. What's more, if we project the ability outwards, we will need to use up a lot of world origin..."

"World origin isn't a problem." Shang Xia's clone interrupted.

Helpless, Chu Jia continued, "The only problem is... No one can control such a terrifying storm of world origin..."

"What about me?" Shang Xia's clone spoke again.

"You...?" Chu Jia was taken aback. However, a strange look appeared in her eyes when she stared at him again. "No. If you're Shang Xia, who's controlling the Origin Holy Artifact in the Yanlin Holy Land? Could..."

"Damn brat, you ran all the way here... Do you know how hard I was trying to look for you?!" Kou Chongxue appeared suddenly. Chu Jia, who was about to use the formation to attack Shang Xia's clone, paused for a second.

"You... Who are you?!" Chu Jia stared at Shang Xia's clone with a look of suspicion.

By that time, Kou Chongxue arrived above the platform and he stared at the various Formation Grandmasters present. "The brat managed to create a clone. There's no need to panic."

After he was done, he turned to look at the clone again while complaining. "Right. Because of your idea, I changed the deployment of our forces. Why the hell did you run all the way here alone?!"

Shang Xia's clone gestured to the platform and explained, "I might be able to help them with the modification of the formation such that we can project the ability to restrict space outwards."

A light flashed in Kou Chongxue's eyes and he turned to Chu Jia and the others immediately. "Can you do it?"

The Formation Grandmasters in the Martial Dipper Realm maintained their firm stance. Of course, the person who ridiculed Shang Xia earlier was part of them. "Theoretically, we can do it. However, if we attempt to expand the range of the ability to restrict space, the qi in the city will definitely go crazy. None of us can control it..."

Kou Chongxue didn't bother letting them finish. "Alright. Just make the preparations and get ready!"

After he was done, he nodded towards Shang Xia's clone. Both of them disappeared into the city the next second.

In the skies above the Yanlin City, several clones stood in the air. When Kou Chongxue brought Shang Xia's clone over, they stared at him in unison.

"Kid, are you really able to integrate our inner qi?" Yifeng's clone was the first to speak. From his tone, one would think that he was questioning Shang Xia to make him admit his weakness.

Shang Xia's clone was slightly surprised before giving the answer. "No... If I wish to integrate your inner qi, I'm afraid my true body will have to come personally."

When Yifeng heard the first word out of his lip, he was about to pop off on Shang Xia and rage at the youngster. However, he fell silent after hearing the other half of what Shang Xia had to say.

Even though Yifeng wasn't saying anything, Jiu Du didn't keep silent. "Are you sure? Are you certain your true body will be able to integrate our dipper qi?"

Other than Kou Chongxue, everyone expected Shang Xia to be unable to do something like that. However, he had to say that his true body would be able to accomplish the feat. All 4 of them felt that Shang Xia was merely boasting at that point.

If not for the fact that Kou Chongxue personally requested for them to head over for the discussion, they wouldn't bother splitting off a clone.

Shang Xia's clone turned serious the next moment. "My true body definitely has the capability to do it. However, he can't leave the Origin Holy Artifact. I might not be able to integrate your inner qi, but I am confident that with the Five Element Ring, I should be able to integrate 30 to 40 percent of your inner qi!"

Chapter 868: Counterattack

Shang Xia was controlling the Origin Holy Artifact and was unable to leave the Holy Land at the moment.

It was also why Yifeng and the others didn't seem too optimistic about Kou Chongxue's plan when he informed them of it at the start.

Now, they couldn't believe what Shang Xia's clone was saying to them.

Even though he couldn't integrate all their qi, he said that he would be able to integrate a portion of it!

"Are you sure?! Do you really know what it means to integrate 30 to 40 percent of our dipper qi?!" Huang Jinghan growled. The suspicion in his voice was even heavier than Jiu Du's.

It might just be 30 to 40 percent of their dipper qi, but one needed to know who those old monsters were!

Kou Chongxue, Lu Wuzi, Huang Jinghan, Jiu Du, and Yifeng. Those were 5 supreme experts whose combat abilities were only inferior to Sixth Order Ancestors in the Azure Ascension World!

Even with one of them releasing 30 to 40 percent of their dipper qi, they would be able to match up to an expert in the third element of the Martial Dipper Realm!

Assuming what Shang Xia's clone said was possible, integrating their dipper qi would result in a superimposition that could release enough power comparable to 2 Kou Chongxues!

That was Kou Chongxue they were using as a unit of measurement here! The ultimate peak of individual fighting strength in the Martial Dipper Realm!

A mystical image flashed through their minds. It was the might Kou Chongxue released during the battle against the Spirit Abundance World 30000 miles from the Beyond Heavens Pavilion of the

Azure Ascension World. The sword qi tore through space in an instant and killed a peak-tier expert while heavily injuring another.

With the power of 2 Kou Chongxues, there was no doubt about it. They would be able to reach the strength of a Sixth Order Ancestor!

When they arrived in the Azure Flame World, Kou Chongxue could only unleash his terrifying combat abilities with the help of the Origin Holy Artifact.

“Since the kid is so confident, there’s no harm in trying...” Yifeng snorted. A part of him wanted to watch the world burn, but there was another half of him that seemed to have a strange purpose.

The next second, Lu Wuzi spoke up. “Kid, have you thought this through? The moment you try to integrate our dipper qi, even if you fail, all of us will lose some energy at best. However, things won’t be that simple for you. You will probably lose this clone!”

Jiu Du added, “It’s also possible that we greatly weaken the protection barrier around the city...”

Shang Xia’s clone chuckled, “Seniors, please. Let’s begin.”

Lu Wuzi and the rest glanced at Kou Chongxue and seeing that he hadn’t said anything, they knew that his mind was set on it. They turned into streaks of divine will that returned to their main bodies.

Kou Chongxue was the only one left, and he nodded at Shang Xia before leaving.

Currently, Lu Wuzi, Jiu Du, Yifeng, and Huang Jinghan were holding their position in one of the directions around the city. They worked together with the Martial Dipper Realm experts around them to borrow the power of the grand formation to resist the siege from those giant flying ships and the Martial Sages.

The only person who wasn’t locked down in a certain direction was Kou Chongxue. He stood above the city and it seemed as though he wasn’t actively defending the city, but the pressure he faced was the greatest. That was because he had to help any side that looked like they couldn’t hold on any longer.

Under such circumstances, Kou Chongxue’s body trembled lightly in the air. The next second, the Hidden Frost Sword returned and hovered before him. He started to store up his strength even though they were still in the middle of battle!

At the same time, a strange five colored light ring appeared beneath his body. It started to expand and the heaven and earth qi in the city seemed to be attracted to it as they started to gather around him.

Along with the powerful stream of qi, they slowly became stained with the five colored light Kou Chongxue was emitting. A massive vortex of five colored light appeared in the skies above the city!

In order to gather the dipper qi from the 5 super experts from the Azure Ascension World, they would need a medium, and there was no one more suitable than Kou Chongxue, who was the strongest among them!

At the same time, streams of dipper qi from each of the directions around the city tore through the void and entered the vortex.

As it absorbed the different dipper qi, the vortex showed signs of becoming unsteady. It was as though it would disperse the next second.

However, the disorder hid its true state. In chaos was order, and the vortex maintained its form and spun with extreme power despite looking unsteady.

With the different dipper qi pouring into it, it started to become unsteady in the eyes of whoever was looking. Despite that, it always seemed to maintain a balance as it never actually crumbled.

10 percent... 20 percent... 30 percent!

Dipper qi finally stopped pouring in after they reached the 30 percent mark.

30 percent of their dipper qi seemed to be a giant bottleneck. If they were unable to integrate properly, they would crumble and shatter instantly! If they were, they would be able to fuse in one and greatly raise their power.

The pause couldn't last for too long. That was because with Lu Wuzi and the others releasing their dipper qi, their combat capabilities would temporarily decline. The pressure on the other parts of the city would increase greatly! They would have to complete whatever they were doing quickly!

The five colored vortex above the city quickly stabilized and became a little milder as the seconds ticked by. Soon after, dipper qi came from the 4 directions again. The only difference this time was that they seemed a lot more careful.

A disturbance of that level couldn't be hidden from the experts outside the city.

They might not know what was going on, but from the expanding aura from the five colored vortex, countless Martial Sages around the city felt their hearts pounding as fear started to set in their hearts.

All they knew was that they couldn't let whatever their enemies were doing succeed!

Countless rays emerged from different directions around the city and managed to force their way into it. Their target was surprisingly the same. It was the five colored vortex in the skies above the city!

Lu Wuzi and the others had no way of stopping those streaks of light.

By the time everything happened, Lu Wuzi and the rest barely released 35 percent of their dipper qi into it.

"Alright, that's it!" Kou Chongxue's voice rang in the minds of Lu Wuzi and the others, along with Shang Xia.

The infusion of dipper qi stopped in an instant, but the vortex around Kou Chongxue didn't disappear. Instead, it started to spin with greater power as it turned a little more stable with each passing second.

Those light rays that tore through the void were stopped by the protection barrier above the city for a short while before being torn to shreds by the vortex around Kou Chongxue.

From the start to the end, Kou Chongxue hasn't moved a muscle. The aura that came from the vortex was actually affecting Shang Xia, as the pressure he exuded grew higher and higher.

After the lights that came to attack them were shredded by the vortex, Kou Chongxue made his move! His Hidden Frost Sword flew out, and the next second, the heavens above the Yanlin City seemed to be split in half!

At the very edge of the tear was one of the giant flying ships. The second the heavenly tear touched it, the flying ship that was thousands of feet long was cleaved in half!

Those who took part in the siege of the Yanlin City didn't just consist of Martial Sages! They might be the actual attacking force that attacked the city walls, but there were countless cultivators on those giant ships! There were ten or so Martial Ancestors, dozens of cultivators in the Third Order of the Primary Realm, and even more in the First and Second Order! Only then would the flying ship be able to fully display its might! That wasn't counting the Martial Sages who were still stationed on them.

When Kou Chongxue's slash hit the ship and split it in half, it seemed like a clean cut. However, the interior of the ship had long since been ravaged by the tyrannical sword qi. Of the 3 Martial Sages who were on the ship, 2 were killed instantly. The other exhausted all the life-saving treasures on him and sacrificed 2 clones before he was able to survive.

He was the one and only survivor of the flying ship that had been cut in 2.

Chapter 869: Bing Bang Boom

A flying ship that was thousands of feet long fell from the skies, but it didn't smash into the ground. Instead, the ship slowly turned into dust in mid air!

With the exception of the Martial Sage who managed to live, the hundreds of lives on the ship were exterminated by Kou Chongxue's mighty sword qi!

One had to know that the flying ship wasn't made up of garbage. When they released their full battle capabilities, even Martial Sages wouldn't be able to approach a thousand feet of it. Damaging the ship seemed impossible, much less cleaving the ship in half.

What was more, there were 3 Martial Sages stationed on the ship. One of them had even reached the third soul Martial Sage Realm!

Everything that happened next showed the experts of the Azure Flame World that the flying ship they were so proud of couldn't even withstand a single slash from the outsider!

Their world view was shattered with a single sword qi, and it became a blow that devastated them. The sudden change caused silence to descend on the lands as the battle came to a standstill for a moment.

The experts of the Azure Flame World weren't the only ones who were shocked by the sword strike. Even the experts of the Azure Ascension World couldn't believe their eyes.

Huang Jinghan, who was stationed in the east where the ship was cut in half, had the deepest impression of the sword qi Kou Chongxue released earlier.

"The power of that sword qi is infinitely close to that of the Sixth Order... He... He seemed to have reached the limit of the Martial Dipper Realm!" Huang Jinghan's gaze landed on the remains of whatever was crumbling in the air and he muttered to himself. He found it difficult to extricate himself from the sword qi he felt earlier.

Pang Jingyun, who had been beside Huang Jinghan the whole time, gasped, “Martial Uncle, are you saying...That the sword qi Kou Chongxue released earlier was his martial intent?! Has he reached the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm?!”

“Sigh...”

Huang Jinghan let out a long breath, but he didn’t reply Pang Jingyun’s question directly. Instead, he turned to the Martial Dipper Realm experts behind him and muttered, “Go! Back the other directions up! I’m more than enough to defend the east now.”

Earlier, not only did the eastern gate have to face the attack of many Martial Sages, but it also had to withstand the assault from the flying ship. Even with many Martial Dipper Realm experts helping him, he found it extremely hard to hold them off.

Without the threat of the flying ship, the Martial Sages outside the city seemed to fall into chaos. With the help of the grand formation, Huang Jinghan could hold them off with no problems.

At the same time, the buzzing sound from the Five Element Ring filled the city. Shang Xia’s clone grabbed it firmly and the power contained within caused his body to jolt once. The clone was nearly destroyed by the energy contained in the Five Element Ring.

Right before Kou Chongxue released his sword qi earlier, Shang Xia blocked the light rays from the experts of the Azure Flame World. Because of that, the Five Element Dipper Qi in his clone was nearly exhausted.

Fortunately, the Five Element Ring was a divine weapon, a very good one at that. Despite being weakened by the attacks of those from the Azure Flame World, it wasn’t actually damaged.

The only problem was that Shang Xia’s clone and the Five Element Ring wouldn’t be able to fuse the different dipper qis together. Even though Kou Chongxue should have reached the actual peak of the Martial Dipper Realm at that point and should be able to release his sword qi without much issues, he didn’t seem to be in a great state.

That was because the final infusion earlier that allowed him to enter the Martial Dipper Realm required him to withstand the might of 4 other experts at the same level! The forceful breakthrough caused him to suffer some backlash!

Even with the assistance of Shang Xia and the Five Element Ring, Kou Chongxue had to withstand massive pressure.

Fortunately, the sword qi earlier struck fear in the hearts of everyone present. The experts of the Azure Flame World were unable to get over the shock of a flying ship being cleaved in half and gave the experts of the Azure Ascension World a chance to catch their breath.

In the Yanlin Holy Land, a massive amount of world origin poured into the city. It took advantage of the gap in their attacks to replenish the energy experts of the Azure Ascension World had lost. A good portion of the world origin went straight to Kou Chongxue who was still hovering in the air above the city.

Shang Xia’s clone didn’t remain idle. It reappeared on the platform in the core region of the city.

The moment he appeared, Chu Jia ran up to him. The look in her eyes was one of shock, but there was a trace of pride and respect hidden within. Shang Xia's clone, who was barely maintaining his divine will, enjoyed the look she was throwing him well.

"I didn't think you could actually do it!" Chu Jia's pretty eyes spun around and glanced at the Martial Dipper Realm Formation Grandmaster who had been chiding Shang Xia earlier.

Lowering his gaze, the Formation Grandmaster left the highest platform and went down.

Chu Jia giggled to herself and continued, "Alright. We're done with our preparations. Are we going to begin now?"

Shang Xia's clone stared outside the city and it seemed as though he could see the flying ship outside the city walls.

"We're not in a hurry anymore. We need to see if they still have the guts to continue attacking with those ships. We should take the chance to make more preparations. Also... I need to head back to the Origin Holy Artifact!" Shang Xia's clone laughed. The next moment, he turned into a streak of light that flew towards the entrance of the Yanlin Holy Land.

In the Holy Land, Shang Xia stood above the Stellar Cauldron as he controlled the world origin pouring in and out of the cauldron.

A five colored light returned to his body the next moment.

The slightly weak aura around him started to recover, but it didn't seem to restore itself to its peak state immediately. After all, his clone exhausted a good portion of his energy.

However, Shang Xia didn't seem to care too much about restoring himself. He created a second clone with his fate dipper essences!

The Stellar Cauldron started to tremble unsteadily after he separated another clone, but it was quickly stabilized by Shang Xia.

After several breaths of time, Shang Xia's second clone arrived on the platform again. The Formation Grandmasters had already completed their preparations and were waiting to take action.

"Those flying ships look impressive, but they're extremely weak!" Chu Jia analyzed. Her development of a flying ship had already started when she was back in the Azure Ascension World. Now that she was seeing a completely new type after entering the Azure Flame World, the flying ship she was working on seemed like a tiny fry compared to what was hovering in the air. Despite that, she seemed to have made her comparisons after such a long period of observation.

Of the Formation Grandmasters present, the person who had the deepest understanding of flying ships wasn't actually Chu Jia. Instead, it was a Formation Grandmaster from the Northern Sea Mystic Sect.

None of those present were surprised. After all, they were the only ones in the Azure Ascension World who created a flying ship. The ship could pass through the Beyond Heavens Pavilion and from a certain standpoint, it far surpassed the flying ships in the Azure Flame World.

“If it’s truly as young friend Shang says and we project the power of the grand formation outwards, we should be able to catch them off guard! However, making them all fall to the ground isn’t exactly possible. As such, we will need to ensure we are prepared for their desperate attempts to counterattack when we strike!” The Formation Grandmaster from the Northern Sea Mystic Sect spoke honestly. He mentioned everything that might happen after they released the power of the grand formation. At the same time, he hoped that Shang Xia’s clone could convey whatever he said to the other Martial Dipper Realm experts out there.

“We’ll have to see if they still have the guts to continue attacking the city...” Chu Jia might be in the core region of the city at the moment, but she could tell the general situation happening outside.

After one of the flying ships was destroyed, the Azure Flame World received a massive blow. They hadn’t resumed their attack on the city yet.

Shang Xia’s clone shook his head in response and sighed, “With things at this point, there’s no way the Azure Flame World will give up. They might be storing up their energy for the next round of attacks. We might face an even more difficult situation when they resume their assault.”

As though trying to prove him right, a tragic phenomenon happened to the Azure Flame World. Other than the Yanlin City, the heaven and earth spiritual qi in the Azure Flame World experienced a sharp decline.

“You fucking devils from another world... What have you done to our world?!”

Chapter 870: From the Sea!

It was the second time the heaven and earth spiritual qi in the Azure Flame World declined.

By that time, even those who weren’t that bright understood that the experts of the Azure Ascension World stationed in the Yanlin City were damaging their world!

They didn’t know why the outsiders were doing something like that, and those in the city definitely wouldn’t explain anything to them. The experts of the Azure Ascension World would rather they die of depression from not knowing than to reveal anything at the moment.

...

On the platform in the core region of the city, Shang Xia’s clone stared at Chu Jia before chuckling in a low voice, “Actually, there’s nothing much going on now. It’s just that we only managed to fill the Origin Holy Artifact 60 percent of the way...”

“How much will we need?” Chu Jia asked as a thought flashed through her mind.

Shang Xia’s clone, who looked like he was floating in the air above everyone, spoke casually. “The more the better.”

He soon noticed the look on Chu Jia's face and he sighed, "However... I'm afraid things are going to get tough in a little bit."

"What's going on?" Chu Jia wondered.

With his gaze piercing through the protection layer around the core region, Shang Xia's clone stared at the figure that was hovering in the air. "I'm afraid Patriarch Kou won't be able to do anything for some time..."

Chu Jia was slightly taken aback, and a look of worry flashed across her face.

Shang Xia's clone quickly comforted, "There's no need to worry too much. He used too much external influence to break through and he only needs to stabilize the inner qi in his body. All we need to do is to buy him as much time as possible..."

As he spoke, another change happened on the battlefield.

Perhaps it was due to the destruction of the flying ship, but the experts from the Azure Flame World who surrounded the city started to gather at the northern gates. The other ships were flying over as they concentrated all their firepower in one spot.

Shang Xia's clone's expression changed slightly when he noticed the change.

The Formation Grandmasters on the platform also noticed the change and they quickly gathered a good portion of the power of the grand formation towards the north of the city.

"The flying ships have landed on the water on the northern side and our ability to restrict space is useless! What are we going to do next?" After switching their focus to the north of the city, Chu Jia asked Shang Xia's clone.

Shaking his head, Shang Xia muttered, "Right now, the ability to restrict space isn't what we should be worrying about... We should be more concerned about what they're preparing to do!"

As though trying to confirm Shang Xia's guess, the Formation Grandmasters detected yet another change on the battlefield. "The sea is starting to rise! It's starting to rise at a terrifying rate!"

"Is the tide rising?"

"Why the hell will the tide rise for no reason, moreover..."

"Hurry, look! The surface of the sea is rising!"

"It's a massive wave... No! It's a tsunami! Those ships are trying to create a tsunami!"

Shang Xia's clone was curious. "Can our grand formation stop the impact of a tsunami?"

Chu Jia looked extremely serious as she analyzed, "We have to see what type of tsunami it is and how many waves come in total!"

The difference between a tsunami and the attacks from the Martial Sages around the city was clear. They would be able to stop the attack from a single individual before it could strike the wall, but with a massive wave that spanned several miles, how were they supposed to stop it?

Water was formless, and there was nothing that could stop it forever.

Shang Xia's clone quickly pointed out, "Looks like they no longer care about the 100,000 or so Yanlin Clansmen in the city!"

A light started to shine in Chu Jia's eyes and a look of anticipation appeared on her face. "What do you have planned?"

Forcing a chuckle, Shang Xia's clone explained, "We have Huang Jinghan, Yifeng, Jiu Du, and Lu Wuzi. There are also a bunch of experts in the second and third element of the Martial Dipper Realm gathered at the north of the city. Are you really asking a mere clone like me what to do?"

Chu Jia took a step forward to get closer to Shang Xia's clone and continued, "You definitely have a way to deal with this, right? Didn't you mention something about your Five Element Art possessing the properties of Metal, Wood, Water, Fire, and Earth? I might not know which specific property the space restriction aspect of the grand formation corresponds to, but you should be able to do something about the tsunami since it's made up of water, right?"

Shang Xia's clone was forced to stumble backwards from how close Chu Jia was getting and he laughed helplessly, "The tsunami might look massive, and it's definitely able to threaten the city. However, the real consideration here is... Sigh... Nevermind. I'll try to control the massive wave that is forming out there."

Chu Jia shot Shang Xia's clone a gaze before turning back to the center of the platform. She no longer stared at him and she muttered resolutely, "Alright. I'll get everyone to support you with everything we have."

At the same time, Shang Xia's voice rang in the ears of the experts of the Azure Ascension World gathered in the north as he relayed his intentions.

Huang Jinghan, Lu Wuzi, and the others were silent as they watched the massive wave forming. Their brows were locked together and suspicious looks could be seen on their faces as they thought about what Shang Xia said. However, they chose to listen to him and maintained their positions.

It was then that a giant five colored light ring emerged from the center of the city. It started to expand and it quickly covered a third of the city. It stained the air above the city and seemed to create a separate region for itself.

World origin started to fluctuate wildly with the appearance of the five colored light. The next second, the region of space that was covered in the jade-green light disappeared as the world origin superimposed on the region that was glowing scarlet-red. Following which, the world origin in it also disappeared as it fused with the world origin in the profound-yellow light. When the yellow light disappeared, a brilliant golden light burst forth, forcing everyone to look away.

Even with things at that point, he wasn't done! A sea of gold rumbled in the air above the city as the world origin in it finally merged with the world origin contained in a region of space that was shining a deep-blue. The world origin in the city seemed to have been sapped dry by whatever happened.

Facing the tsunami that was formed outside the city, the region of blue light that contained endless world origin surged and it nearly blocked out the sky. It crashed directly into the tsunami that was rushing at the city.

At the moment of impact, it was as though only 2 colors were left in the world. A deep-blue sea of world origin and light-blue sprays of seawater into the air.

Everyone's gaze was attracted to the collision as the world seemed to turn silent around them. Not even the rumbling of waves or explosions from the collision were transmitted to their ears. It was as though everything happened silently.

A deep-blue light flashed across the space the next moment and the water that sprayed into the air disappeared. Nothing was left behind as the sea returned to its calm state.

What the fuck just happened?! What's going on?!

No one knew the answer to those questions, but they didn't have time to learn about what was happening either.

The only difference was the skies above. Thick clouds had gathered as a giant storm started. It only served to answer the question of where a good portion of water went earlier.

As the storm started, a giant ship that was concealed by the tsunami earlier was revealed. Countless oars appeared at the side of the ship as it charged forward with impressive momentum. There was a sturdy and somewhat sinister-looking structure at the front of the ship as it came rushing at the city. By the time it closed in, the oars on both sides disappeared.

By the time everyone caught sight of the ship, it was slightly more than 10 miles away from the city. With its speed, it would be able to cross the distance in a matter of breaths before slamming into the city wall!

Shang Xia's actions earlier only managed to buy them several breaths of time. For all that it was worth, it was enough.

An enraged roar came from within the city the next moment as a heavy sword qi rose into the air. It flew out and slammed directly into the strange structure at the front of the ship.