

The Heavens 961

Chapter 961: Yuanhu Earth Star

When they entered the Star Relay, Shang Xia's appearance had already changed thanks to Huang Yu.

At the same time, Shang Xia's cultivation realm and the aura he emitted started to experience some transformation. He no longer exuded the aura of an expert at the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm. Instead, he became an expert at the fourth element of the Martial Dipper Realm. Disguising his cultivation realm became easy with the Illusion Talisman he created.

"As one of the strongest Spirit Worlds, the Spirit Abundance World didn't place too many restrictions on those who can enter their world through the spatial tunnel established in Star Origin City. They're probably extremely confident in their strength..." Huang Yu explained.

It had barely been 4 hours since they arrived at the Star Relay when there were a dozen or so experts who wanted to head over to the Spirit Abundance World. Also, every single one of them had a cultivation realm in the Martial Extermination Realm or higher.

"The limit of each transfer is 36 people, but usually, they would initiate the transfer when more than 10 people have gathered." Huang Yu explained at the side.

The Star Origin Guards responsible for the transfer have also made adequate preparations and collected the fees from everyone. An expert in the Martial Dipper Realm would pay a high-grade essence crystal while those in the Martial Extermination Realm only needed to pay 10 mid-grade essence crystals.

The difference in cultivation level would cause a different impact on the spatial tunnel and the higher one's cultivation level was, the greater the burden on the tunnel. As such, the stronger one was, the higher the price of the transfer.

Huang Yu seemed to be pouting to himself after handing over 2 high-grade essence crystals.

Even if they were Martial Dipper Realm experts, high-grade essence crystals weren't things they could get their hands on easily. Shang Xia, who came to the Land of Star Origin for the first time, was only given 20 high-grade essence crystals by Kou Chongxue! One could imagine how precious they were!

Of course... Shang Xia actually had quite a lot of low to mid-grade essence crystals on him.

"Is the other end of the spatial tunnel connected directly to the Spirit Abundance World?" Shang Xia couldn't help but ask.

Huang Yu shook his head slowly. "Nope. The other end of the tunnel is connected to a different planet that relies on the Spirit Abundance World. The planet is connected directly to the Spirit Abundance World and many powers use it as a trading hub. It's always bustling with activity..."

"Planet that's reliant on the Spirit Abundance World?" Shang Xia gasped. "Did the Spirit Abundance World already subdue many powers?"

“Of course they did. The Spirit Abundance World didn’t kill and exterminate every single world they came across. Those who agree to submit to the Spirit Abundance World wouldn’t be taken under the banner. The Spirit Abundance World naturally wouldn’t be able to take them all in, but they would be able to settle them down on a suitable planet or other massive land masses around the Spirit Abundance World to serve as an outer perimeter of defenses...” Huang Yu paused for a moment before resuming his explanation with profound meaning. “The Spirit Abundance World’s history stretches back thousands of years! The relationship between powers within the Spirit Abundance World and those outside is extremely complicated. I’m afraid that even within powers, there are so many levels of connections that it would be impossible to completely get rid of any link with other factions...”

“As such, the Spirit Abundance World we’re talking about isn’t a simple world of its own. We have to mention the countless planets, land masses, and Barbaric Worlds that they have taken over that surround them... They’re a massive ecosystem that is built on collective strength and benefits.” Huang Yu eventually concluded.

By the time he was done, the spatial tunnel was activated and the experts waiting in the Star Relay stepped into it without hesitation.

Shang Xia might have experienced several spatial transfers in his life, but it was a fresh experience every time! He would be amazed by how the twinkling stars in the distance turned into a long streak of light that extended endlessly as he flew through space.

Fortunately, his cultivation base increased significantly from the time he went to the Azure Flame World. Even though the spatial transfer takes a long time, it wouldn’t be able to affect him much.

From the time taken for the transfer, Shang Xia could determine the distance between the Star Origin City and the Spirit Abundance World. It seemed a little further than the distance between the Spirit Luxuriant World and the Azure Flame World!

After a familiar vortex engulfed them, everyone emerged from the void. Most of the experts in the Martial Dipper Realm were able to stabilize themselves immediately and some stumbled slightly. Those who were a little weaker staggered and fell to the ground below. As for those in the Martial Extermination Realm, some of them started to puke as they cut an extremely sorry figure.

As soon as Shang Xia found his footing, he could feel a faint sense of rejection from the world. It was as though it wanted to separate him from his surroundings. However, the feeling wasn’t too strong at the moment.

When he started to examine his surroundings warily, he heard Huang Yu’s voice ringing in his mind. “Can you relax? Don’t let them sense your unease.”

Shang Xia quickly turned to look in his direction only to be met with a wide smile. Huang Yu added, “This is called the Yuanhu Earth Star. It’s the gateway between the Spirit Abundance World and the Star Origin City.”

The place they appeared when they emerged from the spatial tunnel was a platform that was carved out on a cliff. As Huang Yu introduced Shang Xia to the area, the others had already started to walk off the platform.

Huang Yu signaled for Shang Xia to do the same as he started to make his way out.

Seeing as no one noticed them, Shang Xia heaved a sigh of relief. He tried to soothe the feeling of rejection from the world before asking in a low voice, “From what you’re saying... There seem to be multiple spatial tunnels connecting the Spirit Abundance World to other places?”

Huang Yu muttered in a strange tone, “Of course. The Spirit Abundance World has a history that stretches back thousands of years. They climbed to their current state from a small and weak world. No one knows how many expeditions they carried out and they definitely possess spatial connections to other places.”

Shang Xia was greatly taken aback. However, he had to admit what Huang Yu said made sense. If the Spirit Abundance World was able to reach its current state by growing silently in isolation, that would truly be an astounding fact.

Unlike the Spirit Abundance World, the growth of the Spirit Luxuriant World seemed even more extraordinary. It was also the reason why True Immortals of other worlds didn’t quite believe what they were seeing.

For an isolated Azure World to be able to resist the Spirit Abundance World’s invasion twice while pushing themselves into the level of a Spirit World... It was a frightening achievement!

After leaving the platform, Shang Xia followed Huang Yu and discovered that the Yuanhu Earth Star seemed even more bustling than Star Origin City.

“In the 3 days you’ve been in Star Origin City, you haven’t been anywhere other than the central regions of the city where the Starry Avenue is. Cultivators who can enter Starry Avenue would rarely be weaker than the Martial Extermination Realm. Moreover, even if you saw anyone with low cultivation level there, they would probably be staff members of the various businesses or mere attendants. The Star Origin City is much more lively outside. Not to mention the fact that there are countless hidden factions residing there.” Huang Yu explained as he managed to sense what Shang Xia was thinking.

When Shang Xia was about to say something else, he discovered several gazes landing on him.

A frown appeared on his face and he sent a voice transmission to Huang Yu. “They seem to have their eyes on us.”

Huang Yu’s expression didn’t so much as fluctuate as he mumbled, “Since the Spirit Abundance World has the ability to open up the Yuanhu Earth Star as a trading hub, they’re naturally confident of keeping their control over the entire region. There are countless experts arriving every day and this place is filled with crooks and honest businessmen alike. However, your cultivation level is just too high. For a foreign expert like you who appears in the Yuanhu Earth Star for the first time, you will definitely attract some attention.”

From Huang Yu's reaction, Shang Xia could tell that he was confident in dealing with any trouble that might come their way. As such, he continued to ask, "What do we do now?"

Huang Yu didn't respond immediately, but Shang Xia noticed him gently flicking his sleeves. He could feel a strange pulse emerging. As soon as it did, more than half the attention he was getting disappeared.

"You... This..." Shang Xia stared at his sleeves and made some guesses of his own.

"They're nothing but pieces of trash. No matter what, I'm True Immortal Lou Yi's trusted subordinate for many years. Isn't it normal for me to have a treasure or two from the Emptiness Drifting Mountain?" Huang Yu chuckled.

The Emptiness Drifting Mountain was one of the 9 great powers of the Spirit Abundance World. They were a powerful force that could direct the actions of the Spirit Abundance World! Anyone with a treasure that signified them as an expert of the Emptiness Drifting Mountain was bound to possess great authority! A good portion of people keeping an eye on Shang Xia no longer paid attention to him.

As they made their way down the street, no other accidents happened. With Huang Yu leading the way, they started to walk in the direction of a Star Port in the distance.

Leaving the populated area around the platform, Shang Xia discovered that the feeling of rejection from the world grew stronger and stronger. He couldn't help but ask, "How far are we from the Spirit Abundance World? How strong is the rejection of the World's Will affecting you?"

Huang Yu didn't couldn't help but stop suddenly to stare at Shang Xia in shock. "I might be feeling a sense of rejection from the world, but it's not an intense feeling at all. Moreover, I got used to it a long time ago. Wait... Are you feeling it really strongly? Has it started to affect your cultivation?"

Shang Xia shook his head and muttered, "My cultivation level hasn't been affected, but my combat abilities definitely seem to have weakened slightly. Moreover, I feel a little disconnected from the space around me."

Huang Yu didn't know what was going on and he could only throw out several guesses. "Could it be because of your abnormally high cultivation level and sensitive divine will?"

Shaking his head again, Shang Xia indicated that he had no idea what was going on. Whatever it was, they had to act a lot more cautiously.

When they finally arrived at the Star Port of the Yuanhu Earth Star, Shang Xia saw several flying ships docked by the side. There were also ships drifting about in all directions in the distance.

Paying some essence crystals, Huang Yu brought Shang Xia onto one of the Star Ships nearby.

Before they could settle down, Huang Yu already started chatting with the cultivators who were already on board. "There seem to be a lot less Star Ships here than before. There aren't many entering and leaving the Yuanhu Earth Star Port either... Did something happen?" Huang Yu asked with a look of confusion on his face.

Chapter 962: Coincidental Meeting

“The Yuanhu Earth Star Port seems a lot more desolate... Shouldn't there be a lot more Star Ships flying in and out of this place normally?” Huang Yu couldn't help but consult with the experts of the Spirit Abundance World not too far away.

“You might not have heard, but many factions have been gathering Star Ships on a massive scale. Any Star Ship of decent size has already gathered outside the Spirit Abundance World. That's why we don't see too many ships around anymore...” One of the experts who had also reached the Martial Dipper Realm explained casually.

Huang Yu gasped with a look of shock on his face, “Is there another expedition taking place? I've been hanging out in Star Origin City for the past few years and I have no idea what's going on anymore. I wonder which unlucky world or faction entered our crosshairs this time...”

A cultivator, who had the look of a refined, yet degenerate scum, mumbled calmly, “Our Spirit Abundance World swept away everything close to us and there aren't any enemies anymore. From what I can infer, the expedition should be targeted at a world some distance away.”

“Could it be another invasion of the world that managed to stop us twice?” Huang Yu sucked in a cold breath and probed.

Shaking his head, the gentle scum replied resolutely, “Impossible. From the number of Star Ships that have gathered, they're clearly there to move a large amount of resources. That would mean that our world is extremely confident of success. If we're facing those bunch of backward losers who managed to get away twice, they wouldn't start their victory preparations so early. Moreover...” Glancing at Huang Yu, he continued, “... After the failure of our second invasion, that backward land managed to ascend into a Spirit World with a stroke of luck. It won't be that easy to mess with them again. Unless we manage to form an alliance with other Spirit Worlds and are willing to pay a hefty price...”

After he spoke, several experts who were listening at the side gasped in fright.

“What?! They managed to ascend into a Spirit World?”

“Are you serious?”

“Wouldn't that mean we won't be able to take our revenge?”

“Our Spirit Abundance World hasn't suffered such a huge setback in many years, right? Not to mention failing twice... Are we going to let them off so easily?!”

“...”

Everyone turned their attention towards the world that embarrassed the Spirit Abundance World twice and discussions broke out everywhere. The gentle scum didn't bother about them as his chilly gaze landed on Huang Yu again. “Since you came from the Star Origin City, haven't you heard of what happened?”

With a look of confusion on his face, Huang Yu eventually thought of something and he yelled in shock, “Oh! I got it!”

Seeing as everyone's attention had returned to him, Huang Yu explained, "There was a massive commotion over at the Star Origin City a few days ago. I heard that a new Spirit World managed to form a spatial tunnel with the Star Origin City and with that, there are a total of 5 Spirit Worlds connected to them now. Could it be... Could it be related to the new Spirit World? However, I didn't hear anything about an expedition to another world.

Huang Yu looked at the gentle scum with a curious look. After all, he could feel that the other party was getting slightly suspicious of him.

He seemed to have succeeded as the gentle scum revealed a look of realization. He felt that Huang Yu was definitely someone who was mucking about in the Star Origin City as all the news he had seemed to be things he learned from others.

Someone at the side suddenly interjected politely, "Deacon Tang, everyone knows a direct disciple from the Heaven Embroidery Palace favors you... How can ordinary people like us dream of receiving the intelligence you receive?"

Huang Yu cupped his fists hastily and revealed a look of surprise. "As it turns out, Deacon Tang comes from the Heaven Embroidery Palace! I apologize for not recognizing you sooner! Please accept my apology!"

Revealing a look of superiority, Deacon Tang snorted, "It's nothing much. I'm merely one of Lady Yunsha's subordinates. I'm not special at all! Many thanks for fellow cultivators' recognition..."

Huang Yu couldn't help but lower his status once again as he continued to ask, "Deacon Tang, if I may... You said that the expedition isn't aimed at the newly ascended Spirit World. However, from what you were saying, it seems to have something to do with them... Is there something we don't know?"

"Exactly, exactly! Deacon Tang, please enlighten us!"

"Fortunately, we managed to run into Deacon Tang today. Otherwise, we'll never be able to gain access to information like this!"

"All of you, shut up! Let Deacon Tang speak!"

"..."

Deacon Tang's expression turned solemn, but he acted as though he was being put in a spot for revealing 'crucial' intelligence. Eventually, he mumbled 'reluctantly', "Fine. Since most of the Star Ships have already gathered, this matter isn't considered too big of a secret. I'll tell you guys what is going on."

Everyone cheered as they started to kiss his ass even further.

The haughty smile on Deacon Tang's face grew wider as he started to talk more about what he learned. The more he spoke, the less he filtered his words. He started to mention what happened in the Star Relay the other day and he even mentioned the Spirit Abundance World's target! The name of the Azure Oddity World quickly entered their ears.

Compared to experts like Shang Xia who personally experienced the battle, Deacon Tang's description of the battle seemed pretty exaggerated. He probably heard it from someone else and

added his own details... However, the general idea was pretty much correct and the news was reliable.

From the gossip Shang Xia heard during his description of the battle, he could tell that the gentle scum before him seemed to be one of the lovers a direct disciple of the Heaven Embroidery Palace was keeping...

After receiving the admiration and cheers of everyone present, Deacon Tang seemed even more willing to share the information he knew. He started to talk about the expedition plan laid out by the 9 great powers of the Spirit Abundance World.

“Wait... 9 great powers of the Spirit Abundance World... Didn’t the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake seal themselves off?”

“Yeah... True Immortal Yuanshan from the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake was slain in another world. What rights do they have to maintain their position as one of the 9 great powers?”

“Oh yeah, what’s the Spirit World that managed to stop our invasion and kill True Immortal Yuanshan called?”

“The Spirit Luxuriant World! They were called the Azure Ascension World in the past, but after their ascension, it was renamed to the Spirit Luxuriant World!”

“Maybe... The Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake might still control their Elysium!”

“Could they have already produced a new True Immortal? After all, they’re an Elysium that existed for a long time. How could they not have a proper inheritance for the Martial Void Realm?”

Deacon Tang sneered coldly, “Hehe, if Dugyu Yuanshan really had a plan back then, why would he choose to act as the vanguard in the second invasion against the Spirit Luxuriant World? Wasn’t it just to gain a little more merit and obtain more favors from the World’s Will for his disciples? It’s a shame. Not only did he fail, he even sacrificed himself during the process. He wasn’t the only one who died in the Spirit Luxuriant World either. The disciple he poured all his effort into was also slain there. After counting all the experts who came back, the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake suffered the greatest loss... Do you guys get it now?”

“So that’s what happened...”

Gasps could be heard in all directions.

“Deacon Tang, do you mean to say that not only was True Immortal Yuanshan killed in the Spirit Luxuriant World, but the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake who had the potential to break through to the Martial Void Realm also disappeared suddenly? Looks like the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake won’t be able to maintain their inheritance for much longer... Actually, with the deaths of so many high-level experts. They should be running into trouble really soon!” Huang Yu ‘analyzed’ after receiving

all the information from Deacon Tang. He instantly received cries of acknowledgment and agreement from those around.

However, another voice interrupted everyone's excitement. "Do you think the other 8 great powers are behind the heavy losses the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake suffered?"

The moment the accusation was thrown out, everyone fell quiet.

Deacon Tang, who was bursting with excitement when talking about all the 'exclusive' information he had, finally realized he had gone too far. If what he spoke about got out, he would be the first person punished!

He felt a chill running down his body. When that happened, Qiu Yunsha, the direct disciple of the Heaven Embroidery Palace might not be willing to bail him out of trouble!

Huang Yu observed Deacon Tang's expression at the side and when he saw the troubled look on his face, he couldn't help but curse the last person for butting in. It would probably be difficult to learn more now that Deacon Tang had snapped back to reality.

However, his displeasure didn't affect his award-winning acting skills in any way. Turning to the person who spoke, he snapped, "Fellow cultivator, what are you implying? With our comrades being hunted down, do you think our Martial Void Realm Ancestors would save disciples of their own faction or those from factions unrelated to them? Do you think they would ignore their own disciples? The reason the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake suffered heavy losses is because True Immortal Yuanshan was killed! They lost the protection of their Ancestor and thus suffered in the hands of the enemy. How can you even imply that the other factions are behind this?"

The person who spoke earlier understood that his accusations were indeed inappropriate and he quickly got to his feet to apologize. "I was muddle-headed and didn't think before speaking. Fellow cultivator is right! Deacon Tang, please don't take offense! I take back everything I said."

The next moment, Huang Yu roared with laughter to get rid of the depressing air in the Star Ship. "Alright, alright, weren't we just casually chatting because we have nothing else to do? I believe none of us will take what we said seriously. We won't reveal the information we heard from Deacon Tang either!"

"Fellow cultivator, you can call me Tang Fengxiang. Many thanks for the assistance..." Deacon Tang's low voice rang in Huang Yu's ears the next moment.

Seeing as the matter had blown over for the time being, Huang Yu smiled in response, "You can call me Huang Yu. Brother Tang, there's no need for thanks. They truly spoke without thinking..."

However, Tang Fengxiang continued, "Brother Huang, you've been cultivating in the Star Origin City for so long... Are you heading back now because you miss home?"

Because of Huang Yu's performance earlier, Tang Fengxiang could tell that he wasn't heading back to the Spirit Abundance World for fun. He felt that Huang Yu probably wasn't doing too well in the Star Origin City and that was why he was returning.

A bitter smile quickly appeared on Huang Yu's face. "Brother Tang, aren't you making fun of me? Back in the Star Origin City... Sigh, nothing went right during my time there... I thought of returning to find more opportunities..."

Huang Yu's expression and words confirmed Tang Fengxiang's guesses. He quickly mentioned, "Brother Huang, if you can trust me, you can do something for me. However, I don't know if you dare to..."

Huang Yu's eyes lit up. "I haven't been able to improve for many years. I won't give up any chance that comes my way! Brother Tang, if you're willing to entrust your task to me, I won't let you down!"

Tang Fengxiang grunted once and growled in a low voice, "If I have a way to allow you to enter the expedition to attack the Azure Oddity World, would you dare to fight?"

Chapter 963: Getting to the Point

The Spirit Threading Cliff was located outside the heavenly screen of the Spirit Abundance World and it functions as an outpost. It was made up of a landmass that broke off somewhere, but it was an extremely key part of the Spirit Abundance World's defenses.

That was the destination of the Star Ship Shang Xia and Huang Yu was on. Due to the expedition the Spirit Abundance World was about to go on against the Azure Oddity World, and the Spirit Threading Cliff was swarmed with medium to large-sized Star Ships.

When they disembarked, Huang Yu already seemed to have become extremely close with Tang Fengxiang of the Heaven Embroidery Palace. They even exchanged ways to contact each other and set a time to meet before bidding each other farewell.

"Do you really believe that he will be able to get you a spot in a squad to attack the Azure Oddity World?" Shang Xia couldn't help but ask. He didn't know what Huang Yu's plan was, but he felt that both of them were acting too fake around each other earlier.

Huang Yu looked at Tang Fengxiang's departing figure and muttered without looking back at Shang Xia, "Obviously I know that he's trying to gather cannon fodder for the Heaven Embroidery Palace. However, don't you think this is a great opportunity for us to head over to the Azure Oddity World?"

Shang Xia shook his head in response. "This clashes with our timeline. The most important task at hand is the matter with the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake. We don't know how long it will take, and the Spirit Abundance World's expedition against the Azure Oddity World will probably already be in the works by the time we're done with our task!"

"Right, listen. You're supposed to be a helper I managed to find in the Star Origin City. No matter how much Lou Yi trusts me, he won't allow me to take part in the operation regarding the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake since we might be in cahoots. Your mission is to infiltrate the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake, but mine might not be. As such, I will be free to do whatever I want!"

Shang Xia frowned and wanted to speak, but Huang Yu stretched his hand to stop him. Huang Yu continued, "Even if the Azure Oddity World is a mere Azure World and is going to face the attack of multiple factions... Even if a large portion of their experts will be slain during the invasion... The Azure Oddity World won't be split up by the various portions so quickly. Experts of the Spirit

Abundance World will definitely be sent there in batches. There might be 2, 3, or even more batches of experts sent over. Moreover, with many worlds trying to split up the fat sheep that is the Azure Oddity World, there would most likely be lots of small skirmishes or even robberies between the experts of various worlds. There is no way the entire matter will end quickly.”

“What if...” Shang Xia muttered.

With an indifferent look on his face, Huang Yu interrupted Shang Xia before he could say anything else. “If we don’t make it in time, it doesn’t matter. We’re not from the Spirit Abundance World anyway. Do you think I need to keep my promise to Tang Fengxiang?”

Shang Xia was completely speechless after hearing what Huang Yu said.

They didn’t stay still during their conversation and they quickly arrived at the edge of the Spirit Threading Cliff. Huang Yu pointed at a majestic spatial barrier in the void and muttered, “Take a look. That’s the world barrier, better described as the heavenly screen of the Spirit Abundance World. We need to pass through his barrier to enter the world...”

Shang Xia looked in the direction Huang Yu was pointing and even though he prepared himself mentally, he couldn’t help but feel his heart pounding when he saw the heavenly screen of the Spirit Abundance World.

From the size of the world alone, the Spirit Abundance World was far larger than the Spirit Luxuriant World. The heavenly screen also seemed a lot more powerful. Not to mention the fact that there were flashes of intense light around the heavenly screen from time to time. It was obvious that the Spirit Abundance World managed to fuse some sort of formation into their heavenly screen... Huang Yu, who seemed to be extremely confident the whole time they were making their way over, finally faltered slightly. “As you can see, the heavenly screen of the Spirit Abundance World isn’t the same as those of other worlds. It’s not just a simple barrier either. Is your Teleportation Talisman really as special as you say? Can it allow you to enter the Spirit Abundance World without detection?”

Shang Xia narrowed his eyes slightly, but he muttered resolutely, “Well, I don’t know if we can enter the Spirit Abundance World from the outside, but I’m absolutely certain we will be able to leave the confines of the heavenly screen if used from the inside.”

Shang Xia wasn’t exaggerating at all. He referenced the semi-destroyed rank six talisman when creating his rank five Teleportation Talisman and he tested it personally. It couldn’t be stopped by any sort of spatial ripples or any sort of formations.

The only consideration was the fact that even with someone who can control space to a large extent, Shang Xia would only be able to determine the general direction he would travel in when he used the talisman. Since it was his first time at the Spirit Abundance World, he wasn’t 100 percent certain he would be able to pass through the heavenly screen from the outside. As for leaving... He was sure nothing would be able to stop him.

Despite his confidence, Huang Yu chuckled in amusement, “Are you really nervous right now?”

Shang Xia didn’t deny anything. Instead, he growled in a low voice, “There’s a hostile intent... The World’s Will of the Spirit Abundance World is directing its hostility at me!”

Huang Yu wasn't surprised at that. "It's probably because you participated in killing Dugu Yuanshan."

Seeing how Shang Xia turned to look at him, Huang Yu continued, "Anyway, a Spirit World is able to support Martial Void Realm experts, but that doesn't mean that they can support an unlimited number of them. As such, every Martial Void Realm True Immortal who appears would be recognized by the world itself. They would receive a powerful Origin Imprint from the world! Dugu Yuanshan was one of the most famous True Immortals in the Spirit Abundance World. Since you took part in killing him, the Origin Imprint of the Spirit Abundance World would take you as an enemy. It would naturally treat you with repulsion."

Shang Xia sucked in a long breath and mumbled, "I expected the rejection of the world to be strong, but not this strong. If not for the fact that I have exceptional control over my fate dippers, I might not have been able to keep my aura concealed earlier."

Huang Yu smiled in response. Obviously, he was able to see how well Shang Xia controlled his aura. Not once had he seen Shang Xia losing control of his energy.

"Alright, let's go, I'll bring you to see Lou Yi. If you manage to catch his eye, we won't have to be illegal immigrants." Both of them turned into streaks of light that closed in on the heavenly screen.

The distance of thousands of miles wouldn't take them much time to cross. As they approached the heavenly screen, experts who were in charge of protecting the heavenly screen were alerted.

Noticing a squad of experts rushing at them aggressively, Shang Xia and Huang Yu stopped moving to prevent a huge misunderstanding.

While waiting for the squad to arrive, Huang Yu chuckled and introduced, "The Spirit Abundance World is split into the Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western, and Central Regions. There are a total of 23 Continents that make them up, and we're above the Western Region at the moment. Of the nine great powers in the Spirit Abundance World, the Emptiness Drifting Mountain is located in the west. The Spirit Infusion Sword Sect is also here, and both of them own 2 of the 4 Continents in the Western Region."

When he concluded his explanation, the squad in charge of protecting the heavenly screen above the Western Region arrived.

"Who are you?!" The captain of their squad was an expert at the third element of the Martial Dipper Realm and his squad was made up of a bunch of Martial Extermination Realm and Martial Dipper Realm experts.

Huang Yu calmly retrieved his token from his sleeves and the smile on his face turned into one of indifference. Even the way he spoke changed as there was a trace of arrogance in his voice when he spoke to those who approached. "I am Huang Yu of the Emptiness Drifting Mountain and I'm carrying out a task for Young Immortal Lou Yi."

The captain's gaze changed instantly. His solemn expression turned into one of smiles as he chuckled, "Ah... So it's our comrade from the Emptiness Drifting Mountain! You're even Young Immortal Lou Yi's subordinate! My apologies for being rude. I am Gan Jingting and I hope you can forgive me."

“It’s fine. Brother Gan has a job to do and we should cooperate whenever possible.”
Huang Yu chuckled.

Giving Huang Yu a thumbs up, Gan Jingting muttered, “Brother Huang truly deserves your reputation as Young Immortal Lou Yi’s subordinate! You truly act according to the bigger picture. However... Your friend looks unfamiliar. He doesn't seem to belong to our world, right?”

His subordinates who relaxed a little when they realized that one of the people they were dealing with was from the Emptiness Drifting Mountain tensed up again.

Shang Xia merely laughed at the side and he didn’t reveal the slightest trace of wariness at Gan Jingting’s revelation of his background.

Huang Yu also chuckled softly, “Brother Gan, you really have a discerning eye. It’s no wonder you were entrusted with the security of the heavenly screen. You’re right. He isn’t someone from our world. He’s someone Young Master Lou Yi got me to hire from Star Origin City.”

“Oh?” Gan Jingting stared at Shang Xia curiously. He waved his hands causally and muttered, “Since Young Master Lou Yi was the one who invited him, and Brother Huang is here as a guarantee, nothing can go wrong. Please, go ahead!”

“Many thanks, Brother Gan and fellow cultivators! I’ve troubled you today. Here are some essence crystals to show my sincerity. Please accept them and have some tea on me.” Huang Yu waved his sleeves before handing over a bunch of essence crystals.

“Brother Huang, you’re too kind!”

“Don’t worry about it! Brother Gan, you can’t reject them!” Huang Yu smiled.

“...”

After watching Huang Yu and the other expert leave, one of the subordinates behind Gan Jingting whispered, “Captain Gan, according to the rules, we have to investigate the background of every foreign expert who enters our world.”

With a smile that didn’t really seem like a smile on his face, Gan Jingting turned to look at him. His tone was gentle and warm as he muttered, “Are you new here? Is this your first time taking up the task of guarding the heavenly screen? Do you dare to stop someone Young Master Lou Yi invited?”

The subordinate shuttered slightly, but he didn’t dare to say another word.

Huang Yu and Shang Xia quickly approached the heavenly screen and arrived in the territory of the Emptiness Drifting Mountain. They met Lou Yi who came to meet them outside the heavenly screen after hearing the news.

“Is he the person you were talking about?” Lou Yi glanced at Shang Xia before turning to stare at Huang Yu.

A strange light flashed in Huang Yu’s eyes, but he replied unhurriedly, “Young Master, this is Shang Jianqi, my good friend who has been cultivating in the Star Origin City! He ran into an opportunity when exploring the wilderness in the Land of Star Origin and learned how to get rid of restrictions and formations easily.”

Hearing Huang Yu's introduction, Lou Yi seemed to stare at Shang Xia a little more seriously. After some time, he got straight to the point and asked, "Can you break the grand formation of an Elysium?"

Chapter 964: Pushing for an Answer!

"Can you break the grand formation of an Elysium?" Lou Yi asked Shang Xia calmly as a profound light flashed in his eyes.

Shang Xia didn't hide his shock at the question and turned his gaze towards Huang Yu who was standing beside him.

Taking a step forward, Huang Yu muttered in fright, "Young Master, this..."

Lou Yi raised his hand to stop Huang Yu from speaking further. His gaze turned a lot more serious when he turned to look at Shang Xia. "Can you break the grand formation of an Elysium?!" Now that he repeated his question, it was clear he was pressing for an answer.

Shang Xia might not know what was happening, but he understood that he had to respond. Moreover, his reply would determine his future in the Spirit Abundance World! If he was even the slightest bit careless, he might be placed in a dangerous situation!

Huang Yu's expression sank.

However, Shang Xia sank into thought and after thinking about it properly for a moment, he replied calmly, "I am not a Formation Grandmaster, and I only managed to grasp a special method to break formations. I can't be certain unless I test it for myself. However..."

When Shang Xia started speaking, he could sense the disappointment in Lou Yi's gaze even though there weren't any obvious fluctuations in his aura. He might even be thinking of how to handle Huang Yu's close friend now that he wouldn't be able to do what he wanted. He was even getting lazy to listen to the rest of what the other party said. He felt that everything else that came out of Shang Jianqi's mouth was merely to make him seem less useless.

"... However, I have the experience of breaking the grand formation of a Holy Land." Shang Xia concluded.

"Alright get someone to send Mister Shang here... Huh?! What did you say?! Hold up!" Lou Yi gasped.

Huang Yu reacted rapidly and a piercing light shot out of his eyes while he stared at Shang Xia. "Mister Shang is what you said true?!"

Shang Xia maintained the smile on his face and no longer spoke.

One of the middle-aged cultivators who was standing behind Lou Yi strode over with a look of disinterest. Eventually, a suspicious look appeared in his eyes as he addressed Shang Xia directly, "Alright, Mister Shang, dare I ask, where did you achieve such a feat and what was the name of the Holy Land?"

Huang Yu frowned in response. However, he was no longer as tense as when he spoke to Lou Yi and he growled, "Mister Fei, I'm afraid this isn't appropriate..."

Huang Yu planned to help Shang Xia evade the question as he knew that wouldn't cause Lou Yi or the others to doubt Shang Xia. They would only feel that Shang Xia was someone with great abilities and was only unwilling to share more because of some embarrassing story behind his actions.

Could he be a Great Bandit? Was he a Legendary Thief? Or could he be an expert who was chased out of his sect? He might even be some powerful expert who went into hiding due to some reasons...

The next instant, Lou Yi and the others created many stories for Shang Xia in their minds. They filled in his 'shady' past by themselves.

Mister Fei couldn't help but chuckle in response to Huang Yu's rejection. However, he quickly returned with another question. "How can this be considered inappropriate? He needs to prove himself, right?"

Huang Yu turned to look at Lou Yi and could see that the True Immortal was revealing a troubled look.

Shang Xia analyzed the emotions of everyone present and interrupted suddenly, "It's alright. I'm willing to prove my skills anyway since there's nothing to hide. The Holy Land was called the He Sect. I'm not comfortable revealing which world they came from, but I'm happy to show off my skills."

Mister Fei glanced at Lou Yi before breaking the awkward silence with a bout of hearty laughter. "Oh? Mister Shang, I wonder how you wish to prove yourself?" He waved his hands in the air before he continued, "I'm afraid we won't be able to find a Holy Land for you to show off your skills so easily."

"Hehe... There's no need." Shang Xia understood what he had to do. The more they were doubting his abilities, the more he needed to show them off. Otherwise, they would start to grow suspicious if he was too compliant. He interrupted Mister Fei unceremoniously and raised his chin slightly. "Don't we have you right here to test my skills? I wonder if you will be able to withstand it..."

"Here?" Mister Fei roared with laughter the next moment. However, he seemed to think of something as the smile on his face froze. "Wait a second..."

It was a shame it was too late. Shang Xia made his move as gray spiritual light shot out from beneath his feet. They started to ripple downwards and created a hole that was 30 feet wide in the heavenly screen without causing any noise.

"Oh shit! If you forcefully attack the heavenly screen, I'm afraid it will cause..." Before Mister Fei could finish his sentence, Shang Xia had already disappeared.

The hole in the heavenly screen wasn't the only thing that appeared. There was a gap in the formless barrier that had been set up around the heavenly screen as a second layer of protection. The Spirit Abundance World could be clearly seen through the gap.

When everyone was still staring into the hole, the heavenly screen and the formless barrier started to restore itself without any traces it had been attacked.

Anyone who understood anything about the world and how the heavenly screen worked knew what Shang Xia's actions represented. Even Huang Yu, an imposter, was shocked at the feat.

Another expert who seemed comparable to Lou Yi in age also appeared the next moment and looked at the recovering heavenly screen and clicked his tongue softly. "Looks like someone really capable has arrived. I'm afraid even those on patrol wouldn't be able to discover such a small disturbance... I'm afraid if he didn't do it in front of all of us, we would need to wonder if he's a spy sent by other worlds to infiltrate us!"

The person who spoke earlier turned to stare at Huang Yu before asking casually, "Where did you manage to find such a wonderful talent?"

He didn't wait for Huang Yu to respond before turning to Lou Yi. "Third Brother, this guy is a talent indeed. Shouldn't you be trying to get this guy..."

Huang Yu hastily reminded at the side, "Young Master Zhe, his name is Shang Jianqi!"

"Oh, right, Shang Jianqu!" Lou Zhe slapped his forehead before resuming his conversation with Lou Yi. "You should hurry and find him! He ran through the heavenly screen earlier and if anyone else runs into him and takes him to be a spy... We'll have a massive misunderstanding on our hands!"

Like every other world, one would cross a large distance after passing through the heavenly screen. One couldn't see how Shang Xia made a small hole and ran into the Spirit Abundance World. If someone ran after him after the gap closed, they might appear thousands of miles away!

Lou Yi finally reacted. He understood that Huang Yu truly brought back a terrifying existence and he stared apologetically at Huang Yu for doubting him earlier. "Brother Huang, I'm afraid you will have to..."

Before he could finish speaking, every single one of them discovered space ripples appearing in the distance. They turned to stare at a spot in space a dozen miles away.

Mister Fei chuckled suddenly, "Looks like we won't have to go looking for him. He already emerged from the heavenly screen."

"This is truly..." Lou Yi forced a chuckle while shaking his head. He couldn't help but shoot a glance at Lou Zhe.

Understanding his intention, Lou Zhe smiled and looked at Huang Yu. "Brother Huang, let's go meet up with him!"

"Alright." Huang Yu didn't say too much as he went with Lou Zhe to where the spatial ripples were appearing.

Because Shang Xia barged out of the heavenly screen, he was unable to conceal his presence and caused a massive disturbance. As they were currently in the Emptiness Drifting Mountain's territory, many high-level experts detected his presence and locked on to him. There were even 2 streaks of light that tore through the air from their camp towards Shang Xia.

The next moment, the streaks of light were called to a halt by Lou Zhe as he made his way over to Huang Yu. “Brother Pang, this is a misunderstanding! The cultivator who did this is a friend my Third Brother invited. Would you please allow me to handle matters here?”

The streaks of light stopped and 2 figures were revealed. The leader of the other two stared at Huang Yu before revealing a disgusted look. He growled, “What is Lou Yi up to now? This is the heavenly screen above the Emptiness Drifting Mountain, not your Lou Family’s backyard!”

Lou Zhe chuckled dryly in response, “Senior Brother Pang, there’s no need to take it so seriously...”

With a sneer, Senior Brother Pang turned to return to where he was stationed.

Lou Zhe stared at their leaving figures with a profound light in his eyes before muttering to Huang Yu who was standing silently behind him. “Let’s go.”

Both of them rushed towards where Shang Xia appeared, and Shang Xia also discovered their presence as he made his way over. A moment later, they returned to where Lou Yi was waiting.

Now that Shang Xia was back, Lou Yi and the others stared at him with a face full of shock.

Huang Yu was the only one who seemed a little distracted as he wanted to say something but stopped himself at the last moment.

“Brother Huang, there are no outsiders here. Do you have something you wish to ask? Go ahead.” Lou Yi noticed the strange look on Huang Yu’s face and mentioned.

Huang Yu shot him a respectful nod before muttering softly, “Young Master Yi, what exactly are we planning to do?!”

Lou Yi laughed, but he didn’t say anything. Instead, Mister Fei spoke in his place. “Let me explain!”

Stepping forward, he nodded slightly at Shang Xia with a smile on his face before he continued, “The situation has changed. I believe you noticed all the Star Ships gathering when you were on your way back from the Star Origin City. Do you know what happened to the Azure Oddity World?”

Huang Yu felt his heart stirring slightly, but he nodded in response. “I heard about what happened through a sheer coincidence.”

Mister Fei nodded as though he wasn’t surprised at all. His explanation continued, “Because we failed twice when invading the Spirit Luxuriant World, the various powers here suffered a pretty big blow. It even affected some of our plans in the vast sea of stars. As such, we decided to go all out against the Azure Oddity World, leaving them no chance to resist. With the exception of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake, all the other great powers are preparing for war!”

Huang Yu stared at Lou Yi and Lou Zhe in shock. “Young Masters, are you also going on the expedition?”

Mister Fei shook his head and replied in their stead, “No. That has nothing to do with our plan against the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake. True Immortal Chong Xu was the one who stopped us.”

“Why...?” Huang Yu let out an involuntary gasp.

Finally, Lou Zhe replied, “That’s because True Immortal Chong Xu felt that before we deal with the Azure Oddity World, we cannot stir up chaos within our world.”

A frown appeared on Huang Yu’s face as he muttered softly, “They’re just a mere Azure World. They have 2 True Immortals, and the stronger one suffered heavy injuries. Is there a need to be so careful?”

Lou Zhe remained indifferent and he muttered, “There have been rumors mentioning how the divine weapon of the rank six Formation Grandmaster hasn’t been as heavily damaged as we once thought. There were also some people saying that he already managed to find a way to repair his weapon and has already completed its restoration...”

“That’s something concerning those True Immortals. What has our mission against the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake got to do with that? Moreover, if we manage to succeed, Young Master Yi will be able to take the final step and our Emptiness Drifting Mountain will possess another Martial Void Realm True Immortal! Wouldn’t it be a good thing for all of us? Why are we dragging things out?” Huang Yu grumbled softly.

Mister Fei sighed, “The reason is simple... We got ourselves a competitor. Moreover, they seem to have gotten the support of True Immortal Chong Xu...”

Lou Zhe didn’t forget to add, “That’s not all. True Immortal Chong Xu is using the excuse that the Spirit Oddity World is great at using formations to recruit all the Formation Grandmasters in our Emptiness Drifting Mountain. All of them were deployed and we don’t have their assistance. Even if we have someone on the inside, I’m afraid it’s...”

Huang Yu was too stunned to speak after hearing what had happened. When he finally reacted, he couldn’t help but ask, “How can True Immortal Chong Xu do this?! Isn’t he afraid...” He noticed the looks of disappointment on the faces of the others before he could finish.

“What’s going on?!” Huang Yu’s expression turned grave.

Lou Zhe glanced at Lou Yi, before finally turning back to Huang Yu. “The Old Ancestor... He... He... He’s about to reach the end of his lifespan!”

“Huh?” Huang Yu gasped in fright. However, he connected all the dots the next instant.

Finally, Lou Yi took a deep breath and muttered with a determined look. “That’s exactly why we can’t give up! The matter regarding the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake has been directed by the Old Ancestor the entire time. Now that someone wishes to butt in to snatch our spoils of war, my Lou Family will never agree to it!”

“That’s right!” Lou Zhe growled. “Our Lou Family’s rank six inheritance can never be broken! Otherwise, everything we have done to take over the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake will only benefit others!”

Mister Fei also seemed pretty down at the moment and he continued his explanation without being prompted, “Fortunately, it’s not as though we’re not prepared for this. The Lou Family has a long

history and powerful foundations. Our Young Masters have also prepared many things in the dark and sending you over to the Star Origin City to look for Brother Shang is also one of them. However, they didn't think that you would be able to find such an exceptional expert..."

Huang Yu quickly turned to Lou Yi to express his stance on the matter. "I will follow Young Master Yi's orders!"

To that, Lou Yi simply chuckled, "Brother Huang, there's no need to say more. I understand your loyalty."

"Mister Shang, I wonder if you have any opinions on what we just said?" Mister Fei turned to Shang Xia whose expression was one of utter confusion by that point.

With calculated hesitation, Shang Xia stuttered, "This... This matter involves True Immortals?! Brother Huang didn't mention anything about this..."

Shang Xia's wariness made him look a lot more credible in the eyes of Lou Yi and the others. After all, which Martial Dipper Realm cultivator wouldn't be afraid to mess with True Immortals? All the suspicion they had dissipated even further, Mister Fei chuckled, "Mister Shang, please rest assured. We naturally have everything under control. In fact, we're sure to succeed. Don't forget, we also have the support of True Immortal Chong Shan from the Lou Family. The moment Young Master Yi breaks through, you will be protected by 2 True Immortals. You don't have to be afraid of anything else! Moreover, Young Master Yi has always treated others with sincerity. It's your first meeting, but he already told you the entire plan..."

Naturally, Mister Fei didn't need to say more for Shang Xia to understand that if he refused to go along with their plan, things would take a drastic turn. He knew too much and there was no way they would allow him to leave in case he ratted them out.

Of course, he never thought of backing out in the first place! After all, that was the reason he came!

As if on cue, Huang Yu stepped in. "Brother Shang, do you not trust me?"

A flash of determination crossed Shang Xia's face and he seemed to have made up his mind. He muttered in a low voice, "Alright! Since I came all the way here, I can't back out so easily!"

Looks of joy appeared on the faces of Lou Yi and the others with his agreement.

Chapter 965: First Appearance of an 'Essence Realm'

Shang Xia's appearance and display of skills got rid of the last reservations Lou Yi and the others had.

With his agreement to take part in their plan, Lou Yi and the others quickly made the arrangements.

However, Shang Xia noticed that even though Lou Yi and the rest were frequently entering and exiting the camp set up by the Emptiness Drifting Mountain, they tried to remain undetectable. They seemed to be actively avoiding some sort of surveillance as they raced to prepare everything without alerting anyone.

Finally getting a good opportunity to speak to Huang Yu alone, Shang Xia quickly approached and muttered in a low voice, "Why does this whole thing seem rushed? Aren't they thinking too simply? Do they really think they can remain undetected by the True Immortals of the Emptiness Drifting Mountain?"

Huang Yu arranged his supplies and whispered his reply, "Yeah, they seem really rushed... Looks like Lou Yi and the others are forced into a corner."

Raising his head, Huang Yu swept his gaze across his surroundings trying to be as quiet as possible. After ensuring there was no one around, he lowered his eyes and muttered, "I went to hit up a few acquaintances earlier and got my hands on a piece of interesting news. Not too long ago, another Martial Dipper Realm expert in the Emptiness Drifting Mountain comprehended his martial intent and entered the grand completion stage!"

"Another Martial Dipper Realm expert?" Shang Xia frowned.

If he wasn't mistaken and if Lou Yi didn't make use of any special methods of hiding his cultivation, Shang Xia could be sure that he barely completed the refinement of his fifth fate dipper. His cultivation should be at the large completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm.

Huang Yu nodded. "Originally, there was only 1 Martial Dipper Realm expert in the Emptiness Drifting Mountain at the grand completion stage. That person has been competing with Young Master Yi for a chance to enter the Martial Void Realm. Even if Lou Yi's cultivation is a little weaker, he has True Immortal Chong Shan behind him and he was able to remain in the competition."

Shang Xia understood what was going on and he couldn't help but add, "Looks like even in a great power like the Emptiness Drifting Mountain it's extremely difficult to get a chance to enter the Martial Void Realm!"

Huang Yu chuckled to himself before he continued, "If there was only 1 grand completion stage Martial Dipper Realm expert fighting for his spot, Lou Yi might be able to grasp the opportunity by using all the resources available to him. However, now that a second expert at the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm has appeared, it would be extremely inappropriate for Lou Yi to leapfrog both of them for the chance of ascension. When that happens, chaos would break out in the Emptiness Drifting Mountain. That is exactly why True Immortal Chong Xu passed down word that the only people who would be able to fight for a chance at ascension would be the 2 grand completion stage Martial Dipper Realm experts. Coincidentally, the news of True Immortal Chong Shan reaching the end of his lifespan arrived and the Lou Family came to the conclusion that True Immortal Chong Xu is taking advantage of the situation to get rid of the Lou Family once and for all!"

Shang Xia nodded slowly and muttered, "Hmm... This truly seems too coincidental. It's hard for anyone to think that there isn't anyone plotting anything behind the scenes."

"It doesn't matter if it's a giant scheme or not. This is our only chance to infiltrate the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake. One has to know that the death warrior that has been sent there is extremely loyal to True Immortal Chong Shan. Lou Yi took over as the person in charge of the mission and the death warrior swore his loyalty over to him. Lou Yi is the only one who has a way to contact the death warrior and even though I met him once, he hid his appearance back then. I was unable to recognize him." Huang Yu explained.

“I get it.” Shang Xia nodded once in acknowledgment. However, he wondered out loud the next moment, “Wait a second... The Emptiness Drifting Mountain is one of the great powers in the Spirit Abundance World. They can’t only have 2 experts at the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm, right? Isn’t this a little too pitiful?”

One had to know that the Tongyou Institution barely existed for 40 years but they already had 2 Martial Dipper Realm experts who comprehended their martial intent and entered the grand completion stage. Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia were both experts at that level, and Kou Chongxue even managed to step into the Martial Void Realm.

Of the other Elyusims in the Spirit Luxuriant World, Huang Jinghan and the others also managed to comprehend their martial intent...

Huang Yu’s movements froze for a second before he growled in annoyance, “Yeah, yeah, yeah, you can say all you want because you’re not in their shoes. If not for the fact that you guys were led by Kou Chongxue and helped the Azure Ascension World to ascend to the Spirit Luxuriant World, how many of you would be able to enter the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm? Do you know how many donkey years it will take?”

Shang Xia revealed a brilliant smile while he continued to ask, “So... If the Spirit Abundance World conquers the Azure Oddity World, will it be able to ascend?”

“Impossible! They won’t even be close!” Huang Yu snorted without even thinking about the possibility. “An Azure World is an Azure World at the end of the day. The Azure Oddity World can’t even compare to the Azure Ascension World back then!”

One didn’t even have to mention the fact that the Spirit Abundance World wasn’t the only one who had their eyes on the Azure Oddity World. There were other powers waiting to get a share of the loot and with the Spirit Abundance World standing at the peak of what a Spirit World could be, they would need far more than the world origin from an Azure World to take the final step. Even if they threw in the Azure Ascension World back then for good measure, it wouldn’t be enough!

“Of course, if the Spirit Abundance World managed to devour the Spirit Luxuriant World... It might be possible for it to cross the threshold and ascend. It’s too bad they failed their invasion twice. With the Spirit Luxuriant World slowly consolidating its foundations, it would be highly impossible for the Spirit Abundance World to devour it.” Huang Yu concluded.

Shang Xia nodded but thought of a question that had been burning in his mind for some time now. “About the Superior Worlds everyone has been mentioning in the Star Origin City... What exactly are they called?”

“They are called Essence Worlds!”

...

Lou Yi and the others completed their preparations very quickly, but during that time, Huang Yu managed to make a trip out.

When he came back, everyone who was supposed to be leaving for the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake had already gathered. Lou Yi, Lou Zhe, and Mister Fei were all present, but there was another fourth element Martial Dipper Realm expert who went by the name of Shan Yunchao among them.

“Brother Huang, you really know how to make full use of your time... You managed to run all the way over to Sixteenth Sister’s place in such a short amount of time...” Lou Zhe winked at Huang Yu as soon as he returned.

“Junior Sister Zhen gave birth to my daughter some time ago and I haven’t seen them for some time now... Of course I would be worried...” Huang Yu didn’t seem to care about their teasing as he said whatever he liked without feeling the slightest bit of shame.

Lou Zhe coughed twice before grunting, “You old thing... It’s no wonder Sixteenth Sister is so attracted to you. Anyway, my niece should be a little older than a year old, right? Sixteenth Sister is a Martial Extermination Realm expert regardless... Do you really think she’s still feeling weak because she gave birth so long ago?”

Huang Yu maintained a stern look and he continued bullshitting, “Young Master Zhe, that’s where you’re wrong! It’s precisely because Junior Sister Zhen is at the Martial Extermination Realm that she lost a portion of her extermination qi after giving birth. She has to adjust her condition to prevent herself from being injured in the future. Heh, what am I telling you these things for? You won’t understand anyway!”

“Huh?” Lou Zhe was utterly confused by what Huang Yu said and he growled, “What do you mean I won’t understand?”

Raising his arms casually, Huang Yu decided to remain silent. After interacting with them for so long, he knew that Lou Zhe was someone who wouldn’t give up until he won the argument. The more he spoke, the worse their conversation would become.

Finally getting rid of Lou Zhe’s questioning, Huang Yu turned to look at Shang Xia whose gaze was burning into him.

“You actually have a family? You even have a child now!” Shang Xia asked.

An unnatural light flashed through Huang Yu’s face and he chuckled in embarrassment. “Oh... Haha! Yeah... Yeahhh...”

Shang Xia could see the awkward look on Huang Yu’s face and assumed that it was because he was feeling guilty about Wei Qiongyi and Wei Zheng. An empathetic look soon appeared on his face and he chuckled, “Oh! I have to congratulate you on that! I have to meet them in the future and I hope Brother Huang can convey my well wishes...”

Considering their status in the Spirit Luxuriant World, Shang Xia was supposed to be Huang Yu’s junior. However, since Huang Yu introduced him as ‘Shang Jianqi’, a friend he met in the Star Origin City, he had to act the part and make them seem like members of the same generation.

He didn’t notice how Huang Yu’s smile turned even stiffer as he mumbled, “Of course, of course...”

Fortunately, Lou Yi and Mister Fei approached with the other expert who seemed to be in his thirties, and interrupted the 'conversation'.

"Brother Shang, this is Senior Brother Shan Yunchao! He's True Immortal Chong Shan's direct disciple!" Lou Yi introduced. "True Immortal Chong Shan is really old and his disciples rarely appear in public. Senior Brother Shan is his most famous disciple!"

Shan Yunchao cupped his fists towards Shang Xia and chuckled, "I believe our plan will be much more successful with Brother Shang's involvement!"

Shang Xia responded modestly, "No, no... I'm not that special. Young Master Lou might have exaggerated my abilities. My skills aren't that amazing... Of course, I will try my best to make this a success!"

Both of them continued to exchange pleasantries as it was their first meeting. Fei Gu and Huang Yu weren't strangers to Shan Yunchao and didn't do the same.

After familiarizing himself with everyone, Shang Xia quietly inspected their cultivation realms.

He could tell that Lou Yi, who refined 5 fate dippers and reached the large completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm was the strongest. Shan Yunchao and 'Shang Jianqi's' cultivation was at the fourth element of the Martial Dipper Realm and should be ranked just behind him. Huang Yu came next at the third element of the Martial Dipper Realm, and so was Fei Gu. Fei Gu's cultivation seemed to be at the second element of the Martial Dipper Realm, but Shang Xia could tell that he had refined his third fate dipper and was merely hiding his true cultivation realm. [1]

Disregarding any existence at the True Immortal Realm, the 6 of them could be considered an extremely terrifying squad of experts. If they compared themselves to the factions in the Spirit Luxuriant World, not a single superpower would be able to gather experts at their level.

Even in the Spirit Abundance World, they would probably be able to do anything they wished as long as no Martial Void Realm True Immortal interfered. They would probably be able to suppress any Holy Land if they went all out.

"The Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake suffered great losses in terms of their high-level experts. Now that they have sealed off their mountain, all they're relying on is their grand formation and their Elysium. Their seniors or ancestors also left behind some hidden trump cards, but as long as we manage to infiltrate them without anyone noticing us, we will be able to catch them off guard by working together with our spy. When that happens, we have a 90 percent chance to successfully enter their Elysium." Lou Yi explained.

Shan Yunchao's appearance showed that True Immortal Chong Shan had already agreed to the plan. Lou Yi and Lou Zhe were direct descendants of Immortal Chong Shan and they definitely had treasures the Martial Void Realm True Immortal personally prepared.

Everything was ready and they prepared to leave for the Heavenly Lake Continent in the Eastern Region.

Before they left, Shang Xia wondered out loud, “Oh... Why don’t we travel above the heavenly screen? Wouldn’t we be able to save a lot of time that way?”

As a peak-tier Spirit World, the Spirit Abundance World was much larger than the Spirit Luxuriant World! They had to travel to the Eastern Region’s Heavenly Lake Continent from the Western Region, and even by traveling above the heavenly screen, they would take a long time. If they travel across the land... Even with their flying speed, they would need several days to arrive!

Shang Xia’s sudden question caused the atmosphere to turn a little weird.

Before Lou Yi and the others could say anything, Huang Yu muttered, “Brother Shang, this...”

Shang Xia revealed a look of embarrassment and chuckled, “The Spirit Abundance World truly deserves its reputation as a peak-tier Spirit World... The World’s Will is exceptionally powerful. This... Hehe... My cultivation has been severely suppressed.”

“Brother Shang, didn’t you feel it back then when you passed through the heavenly screen?”

Of course, all of them saw how he tore a hole through the heavenly screen back then without alerting the guards above. He should have felt the suppression then...

Shang Xia sighed, “When I entered the heavenly screen, the suppression of the world caused my combat strength to be restricted to that of a third element Martial Dipper Realm cultivator. That was why I alerted the experts stationed there when I forced my way out...”

Lou Zhe quickly asked, “This... Brother Shang, if your cultivation is suppressed, will your ability to destroy formations be affected?”

Lou Yi interrupted before Shang Xia could respond. “Heh, since Brother Shang chose to join us, there’s no point in second-guessing ourselves and giving up halfway!”

He turned to Shang Xia and chuckled, “Brother Shang, if you need to know, all of us need to move cautiously when carrying out the mission. It’s true that the journey will be shortened by tens of times if we travel above the heavenly screen, but there is nowhere to hide up there. There are countless squads patrolling the heavenly screen and True Immortals would scan the region from time to time. It’s nearly impossible to remain undetected up there. Things will be different if we travel across the land. Not only will they be less cautious, but there are countless ways for us to conceal our tracks. As long as we are a little more careful, no one will be able to discover what we’re doing.”

Huang Yu also added, “Brother Shang, the moment we arrive in the Heavenly Lake Continent, we will have to descend no matter what. Even if we travel above the heavenly screen now, you will feel the same sense of rejection when you re-enter the world. You might as well use the journey there to adapt to the feeling to prevent yourself from being flustered when the time comes. In case anything goes wrong, our whole plan will go up in smoke!”

Shang Xia sighed softly in response, “Looks like I didn’t think things through. I’ll stick to the plan. Young Masters, please relax. Even if my cultivation has been restricted, it will only affect the time taken to get rid of the formation! I might need a little more time, but the level of formations I can break won’t be affected.”

Chapter 966: Bamboo Whistle

Even though they weren't using the route above the heavenly screen to travel to the Eastern Region, they would still be an extremely eye-catching party if they moved openly.

That was why when they set off from the Drifting Cloud Continent in the Western Region, all of them didn't just conceal their auras. They set off in 2 separate groups, ensuring a certain distance between them as they made their way East.

Shang Xia and Huang Yu were split up and Shang Xia was grouped up with Lou Zhe and Shan Yunchao. Their group stayed 30 to 50 miles behind Lou Yi, Fei Gu, and Huang Yu as they traveled to their destination.

“The True Immortals are mostly concerned about what's happening with the expedition. Otherwise, even with our concealment, we will most likely be discovered by a True Immortal the moment we step foot onto the Heavenly Lake Continent...”
Lou Zhe was someone who couldn't stop talking and that was exactly what he did along the way.

Unlike him, Shan Yunchao seemed a lot more careful and quiet. Perhaps it was because of his identity, or maybe Shang Xia was comparing him to the noisy Lou Zhe... He seemed to be a much more reliable person.

In the end, Shang Xia became the only one responding to Lou Zhe the entire way. Because of Lou Zhe, Shang Xia managed to learn a lot about matters regarding the Spirit Abundance World and he gained a deeper understanding of them. It was also why he was able to endure the man talking non-stop.

After hearing a portion of what Lou Zhe was talking about, Shang Xia revealed a curious expression. “I heard about the strength of the Spirit Abundance World back in the Star Origin City! According to the rumors, there are more than 20 Martial Void Realm True Immortals here. Why is there a need to act so cautiously when facing a mere Azure Oddity World?”

Shang Xia's sudden question wasn't because he was merely finding something to talk about because he was bored. He truly found it unbelievable. He felt that the Spirit Abundance World was using a sledgehammer to crack a nut, and it was just too exaggerated.

Lou Zhe and Shan Yunchao exchanged a glance and Lou Zhe chuckled in amusement. “Brother Shang, do you know which part of the expedition to the Azure Oddity World will cause the greatest threat to our world?”

Shang Xia raised an eyebrow in shock and muttered, “Threat? Can the Azure Oddity World pose the slightest threat to your Spirit Abundance World?”

Smiles appeared on the faces of Lou Zhe and Shan Yunchao. Seeing Shang Xia getting more and more confused, Lou Zhe continued, “Of course the Azure Oddity World won't pose the slightest threat. It doesn't matter if the rank six Formation Grandmaster, Meng Yuanxiu, is injured, or if his weapon was damaged. Even if they were completely intact, they wouldn't be able to do a thing to us! The threat we will face doesn't come from the Azure Oddity World. Instead, it's the other worlds that also have their eyes on the Azure Oddity World!”

Shang Xia revealed a look of shock before falling silent. It seemed as though he was in a state of disbelief. Only after some time did he sigh softly, “So, this is going to be an expedition filled with deceit and treachery?”

Finally, Shan Yunchao who hadn't said anything for a long time replied, “Every single world is looking for a way to improve and we'll definitely compete with each other. All of us are merely looking for a chance to grow stronger with this opportunity of taking over the Azure Oddity World.”

Shang Xia had a feeling Shan Yunchao's words contained a hidden meaning and he wanted the man to keep speaking. However, Shan Yunchao no longer added anything else and Shang Xia could only continue chatting with Lou Zhe. While they made their way forward, he was carving the memory of everything he passed into his mind. A basic geographical knowledge of the Spirit Abundance World was formed in places he passed through and Shang Xia felt that he learned quite a bit.”

Just like that, the group eventually arrived in the Heavenly Lake Continent in the Eastern Region. They used slightly more than a month to arrive, and one could easily see how large the Spirit Abundance World was.

According to Shang Xia's estimates, the Spirit Abundance World was at least twice as large as the Spirit Luxuriant World.

After entering the Heavenly Lake Continent, everyone became extremely careful. They arranged for a time and place to meet before splitting up to carry out their individual tasks.

Several more days passed as Shang Xia eventually closed in on the sealed-off entrance of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake.

Since they closed themselves off to the world, the Five Links Ridge had long since been covered by layers upon layers of cloud and mist. From afar, one wouldn't be able to see anything.

In the past, cultivators tried to look for the entrance of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake but even after making countless rounds in the mountains, they eventually returned to their original spot. As such, no one bothered to approach the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake.

As one of the two only Elysiums in the Eastern Region, before the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake sealed themselves off, they once maintained a massive city in the Five Links Ridge called the Heavenly Lake City. However, the city was pretty much deserted after they closed themselves off.

Shang Xia didn't enter the city. Instead, he started to move in another direction after observing the city from a distance.

From what Lou Yi and Huang Yu said, even though more than half the experts in the city had left and only ordinary people remained, no one knew how many spies from the various factions were still in the city.

Glancing in the direction of the Five Links Ridge which was completely obscured, Shagn Xia headed for a forest that was on a mountain dozens of miles away.

When he was 20 to 30 miles from his destination, he stopped abruptly and turned to stare at a pile of rocks hundreds of feet away.

A figure quickly emerged and made its way towards him.

“Why are you here?” Shang Xia was a little surprised to see Huang Yu. From the looks of it, Huang Yu arrived some time ago and had been waiting for him.

From how Shang Xia was looking, he seemed to have a smooth journey the entire way and Huang Yu heaved a sigh of relief. However, he soon asked in a slightly impatient tone, “Tell me the truth. How strong is the suppression by the World’s Will and how much strength can you muster?”

Shang Xia was slightly taken aback and he mumbled, “Is that it? Did something happen?”

Huang Yu sighed softly as he tried to soothe his nerves. “It’s fine. Maybe I was too nervous, but I’m afraid that they will try to silence you the moment we enter the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake.”

“That’s not really surprising... Didn’t we already run through this scenario when going through the plan?” Shang Xia chuckled in response.

With a slight look of disbelief, Huang Yu continued, “Is your Teleportation Talisman really able to help you leave the world without being detected by Martial Void Realm True Immortals? Did Kou Chongxue really not give you anything to protect yourself?”

Seeing how serious Huang Yu was acting, Shang Xia couldn’t help but answer, “There’s no need to worry about me. You should start thinking about the situation you’re in! There’s no need to speak more about Lou Yi and Lou Zhe as they are direct descendants of True Immortal Chong Shan, but even Shan Yunchao is his direct disciple! Strictly speaking, the other 3 of us are outsiders! Mister Fei Gu is supposed to be Lou Yi’s advisor according to you, and he started serving Lou Yi long before you did! He’s definitely trusted by Lou Yi a lot more than us... You brought me over here and if they didn’t tell you anything before trying to silence me... Their intentions cannot be more clear!”

“Heh...” Huang Yu chuckled to himself while shaking his head. “Relax. I have my ways to retreat. If anything happens, you just need to remember to take care of yourself during the crucial moment!”

Shang Xia shook his head and stuffed a sealed spiritual case into Huang Yu’s hands. “Anyway, for you to risk it all to stay here and remind me means that the matter with the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake definitely caught the attention of a Martial Void Realm True Immortal. I might be able to conceal my aura and hide my true strength, the moment I burst forth with my full power and my five colored spiritual light is revealed, they will definitely recognize me! When that happens, you won’t be able to avoid suspicion too. You better keep this Teleportation Talisman.”

He didn’t wait for Huang Yu to reject the talisman and he revealed another sealed spiritual case. “Don’t worry about me. I have another.”

Keeping the sealed spiritual case properly, Shang Xia turned around to leave. “Alright. Before we arrive at the meeting spot, we shouldn’t be seen together to prevent them from getting more suspicious. We might even rouse the suspicion of the True Immortal keeping his eye on this matter.”

Watching Shang Xia’s leaving figure, Huang Yu seemed to realize he missed something. After thinking for a moment, he growled, “Hey! This damn brat didn’t answer my question about how strong he is after being suppressed by the world! Fuck! What a crafty brat...”

A profound light flashed in his eyes as he stared in the direction where Shang Xia had left.

Shang Xia didn't doubt Huang Yu's sense of danger at all. Otherwise, he wouldn't have forced Huang Yu to accept his Teleportation Talisman.

Earlier, he avoided Huang Yu's question about his combat capabilities as he didn't wish to give the man the shock of his life.

As someone who took part in exterminating Dugu Yuanshan's soul, Shang Xia wasn't just going to face the suppression of the world. There was even a trace of hostility concealed within. The hostility of a Spirit World was no laughing matter! The suppression and sense of rejection from the world were amplified because of it and it was possible for it to suppress his cultivation by 2 small realms!

However... Along the journey, Shang Xia discovered something extremely strange. His Five Element Dipper Qi seemed to be transforming. The subtle transformation allowed him to better integrate himself into the Spirit Abundance World.

That wasn't all. The change would also allow his aura to slowly become similar to cultivators of the Spirit Abundance World! Naturally, it wasn't exactly a fundamental transformation. It seemed more like a natural disguise...

After some trial and error, Shang Xia discovered that that wasn't exactly the right way to put it either. His Five Element Source wasn't just allowing him to disguise. To be more accurate, the power of the Five Elements was the origin of where everything came from!

Shang Xia's Five Element Source wasn't restrained and limited to the world origin of the Spirit Luxuriant World! If he dug deeper into the path of the Five Elements, he would discover that it ranked above that of any world origin. It was a type of power that couldn't be controlled by any world!

If Shang Xia was willing, he would be able to link up to the world origin of any world with his Five Element Source to receive the recognition of the World's Will!

He was an expert from the Spirit Luxuriant World, but he could very well be seen as an expert from the Spirit Abundance World! The Spirit Tinkle World, Spirit Thistle World, and even the Spirit Mammoth World wouldn't be exceptions to his ability!

With everything he learned along the way, he discovered that as long as he willed it, he could get rid of the suppression of the Spirit Abundance World and return to his peak state as an expert at the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm! His combat abilities wouldn't be affected in the slightest.

Earlier, he didn't say it because he was afraid it would shock Huang Yu, but actually, he didn't quite believe his abilities either.

...

It didn't take him long to locate the small forest they were supposed to meet. By the time he arrived, he noticed that Lou Yi and Shan Yunchao were already there.

Not too long later, Fei Gu also entered the forest and he was swaying about like an ordinary old man out for a walk.

The last people to arrive were Lou Zhe and Huang Yu as the 2 of them rushed over to regroup with the others.

With all 6 of them present, Fei Gu chuckled in amusement, “Brother Huang, it’s not your first time here. Why are you part of the latest group to arrive?”

Before Huang Yu could say anything, Lou Zhe spoke up from the side, “I ran into Brother Huang along the way and decided to slow down a little... I caused him to be late...”

“I see!” Fei Gu laughed. Seeing as Lou Zhe had spoken, he didn’t even ask why they decided to slow down.

Lou Yi tapped a brass bracelet on his hand as a bamboo whistle fell into his palm.

Lou Zhe stared at the whistle and revealed a look of amazement while he gasped, “So this is the item we’re using to communicate with that person on Five Links Ridge?”

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Lou Yi didn’t bother responding to Lou Zhe’s question. Instead, he held the whistle in his hand and stared at the other 5. He seemed to be asking if they were ready to take action.

Lou Zhe didn’t seem too affected after he was ignored by Lou Yi. He continued to stare at the bamboo whistle with a look of curiosity on his face. Light flashed in his eyes and no one knew what he was thinking about.

Raising the whistle to his lips, Lou Yi blew hard into it. A strange fluctuation emerged from the treasure but other than that, they didn’t hear any sound.

Shang Xia’s divine will tried to follow the fluctuation but he discovered that it was being exhausted at a rapid rate and quickly withdrew it.

At the same time, Fei Gu, Huang Yu, Shan Yunchao, and the others grunted heavily as their bodies swayed violently. They exchanged a glance before staying silent. Clearly, they tried to use their divine wills to follow the strange fluctuations and suffered greatly from it.

It was then that Shang Xia felt a gaze on him. He turned to stare at Lou Yi who was looking at him, but he noticed Lou Yi turning away before their eyes could meet.

The next second, a gentle breeze started to blow through the forest as the rustling of leaves resembling crying ghosts and soft howls of wolves filled the area.

Those in the forest finally realized that there was a giant formation hidden where they were. After feeling it out a bit more, they realized that all the formation in the forest did was to amplify the fluctuations created by the bamboo whistle by tens of times...

“This...” Huang Yu couldn’t help but mutter, but he was interrupted before he said much.

“I’m afraid this forest that seems to be born naturally from the world isn’t so easily built, right?” Fei Gu gasped in amazement.

Shan Yunchao glanced at Lou Yi who didn’t seem like he was going to stop blowing the whistle and seemed exhausted after using up a good portion of his dipper qi doing so and explained on his behalf, “There are some ancient trees in this forest that don’t seem any younger than a hundred years old...”

In other words, the Emptiness Drifting Mountain, or more accurately, True Immortal Chong Shan, started plotting against the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake more than a hundred years ago!

One had to know that among the 9 great powers of the Spirit Abundance World, the Emptiness Drifting Mountain, Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake, and Azure Island were allies with extremely good relationships with each other.

There was no need to mention much as they were the ones who set up the trap for the Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World with the Manyu Continent! They caused the location of the 2 worlds to be revealed, and that wasn't all. They formed a party to carry out the first expedition against them!

That was enough to prove the close friendship the 3 factions had with each other.

Actually, Huang Yu wasn't exactly questioning the presence of the forest. He had been there several times back then and he even met with their spy. It was just that...

...

In one of the mountain peaks that was protected by the grand formation of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake dozens of miles away from the forest lay a small pavilion that sat along the lake. A decorative tree moved slightly in the wind as a formless fluctuation spread across the pavilion.

The next second, the pavilion seemed to turn a lot darker as a hand reached out from the void to soothe the plant that was swaying. At the same time, he got rid of the formless ripples that formed.

"Looks like this day really came..." A blurry voice rang through the air as a breeze blew past the surface of the lake. The arm disappeared from the pavilion and the tree no longer moved.

As the wind blowing across the lake eventually died down, the plant that stopped moving earlier seemed to be controlled by a formless arm as it was shaken thrice in succession.

...

In the forest, Lou Yi continued to blow on the bamboo whistle while burning his dipper qi without any regard for it. The strange sounds that were emitted from the forest stopped abruptly and no matter how much Lou Yi continued to blow his whistle, no other disturbance was created.

"This..." Shang Xia muttered out loud in shock.

Lowering the whistle in his hand, Lou Yi forced a smile and muttered, "Looks like our guy should know that we're here!"

"What are we going to do next?" Lou Zhe asked.

Lou Yi didn't answer him. Instead, he turned to look at Shan Yunchao beside him and asked, "Senior Brother Shan, do you still have the item from the Ancestor?"

Lightly taken aback, Shan Yunchao muttered, "I do, but the Ancestor didn't personally give it to me. He bestowed it to my teacher back then and I received it when I received his inheritance..."

Lou Yi nodded slightly and stretched his hand out. "Yeah, that's the one!"

Shan Yunchao hesitated slightly, but he eventually took a folding fan out from his sleeves and handed it to Lou Yi.

“Senior Brother Shan, rest assured I will return this to you after this is over!” Lou Yi smiled before opening the fan. He displayed it for everyone to see.

When they looked at the treasure, they discovered that there was a painting on one of its surfaces and it depicted the scene of a forest that was swaying softly in the wind.

“Isn’t this... Isn’t this where we are?” Lou Zhe was the first to speak and he said what everyone was thinking of.

As soon as the words left his lips, Lou Yi slashed a wound on his finger and dripped a drop of blood onto the folding fan. As the blood landed on the treasure, it slowly stained the painting on its surface.

The scene started to change, and Lou Zhe couldn’t help but exclaim in shock. “Hey, it’s moving, it’s moving!” However, he quickly realized what was going on and he hastily suppressed his voice.

“Everyone, please follow me.” Lou Yi started to walk in a certain direction after he spoke as he no longer cared about the rest. Everyone could only follow behind him obediently.

All 6 of them were Martial Dipper Realm experts and they moved extremely quickly. Even if they didn’t fly through the air, the distance of dozens of miles wouldn’t take them much time at all to cross.

Throughout their journey, Lou Yi would send another drop of blood into the fan at fixed intervals and the painting on it would change to guide them in the right direction.

All of a sudden, Fei Gu suddenly muttered, “All of us should have entered the sea of clouds produced by their grand formation to hide the mountain, right?”

All of them stopped suddenly and stared at their surroundings. Their expressions started to change rapidly. Actually, Shang Xia didn’t need Fei Gu’s reminder to understand that they had already entered the secret region that was hidden by the sea of clouds.

The secret region they were in greatly suppressed and twisted their divine will such that they wouldn’t be able to see far ahead. As such, all of them didn’t know where they were headed. They couldn’t even tell what exactly was transforming beneath them as they traveled forward.

However, Shang Xia was able to get a sense of what was going on as his dipper qi protection barrier was resonating with the protection formation surrounding them.

He might not be able to discover what was happening far ahead, but he was at the very least aware of what was changing beneath his feet.

The reason why he didn’t say anything to the others was because he discovered that even though no one knew where they were going, he could feel that they were getting higher and higher. Even the gradient of the ground they were stepping on was getting steeper. Everything indicated that they were climbing up the mountain and Lou Yi was most likely leading them in the right direction.

Lou Yi seemed to have discovered their shock as he waved the fan in his hand and muttered, “The Ancestor’s treasure will never make a mistake!”

“Since we have already come so far, it makes no sense to go back now. Moreover, without Young Master Yi’s fan to point the way, we’ll be walking around completely blind.” Huang Yu added.

“Brother Huang, do we need you to point that out? Since we have gotten so far, how can we not understand what’s going on? However, our senses are obscured right now and our divine wills are restricted. Even if we’re going in the right direction, we won’t be able to react in time if anyone carries out a sneak attack!” Fei Gu chuckled.

He pointed out what everyone was afraid of in the first place. The fan in Lou Yi’s hand might be able to point them in the right direction, but that didn’t mean that they would be able to avoid the ambush from the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake if they were discovered!

After all, they couldn’t blindly believe that the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake would recall all their experts because they sealed their mountain. What if there were experts stationed around to protect the sect?

All of a sudden, Shang Xia gave his input. “Why... Why don’t you let me give this a shot?”

Before anyone else could say anything, Lou Yi stared at Shang Xia with interest and asked, “Oh? Brother Shang, what do you plan to do?”

Shang Xia raised his hand and gestured for everyone to remain calm. He silently circulated his Five Element Origin and after intentionally making some concealments, his dipper qi turned into a streak of gray light that surrounded him. It swept across his surroundings and the mist became a lot thinner. Everything around them that had been hidden by the mist was revealed and all of them discovered that their divine will returned to normal.

Before they could rejoice, the effects stopped after getting rid of the mist 500 feet away from them. The next moment, the powerful mist overpowered whatever Shang Xia was doing and swallowed everything back up.

Shang Xia started to pant as though he exhausted a good deal of his inner qi.

“Mister Shang’s skills are truly exceptional.” Lou Zhe praised before adding, “It’s a pity, such a pity...”

Everyone clearly understood what he meant by that...

Shan Yunchao sighed, “Let’s just keep pushing forward. Mister Shang, you cannot do whatever you just did however you like. The closer we get to the mountain peak, the more likely it would be for them to discover us.”

Lou Yi nodded in agreement. He wanted to continue, but Lou Zhe stepped up and volunteered, “Third Brother, why don’t I give it a shot? This way, you won’t have to exhaust yourself too much and affect your combat abilities.”

“It’s fine. I know my limits.” Lou Yi smiled and sent another drop of blood onto the fan. He continued to walk forward as everyone followed closely behind.

After traveling for some time, The painting seemed to return to normal, and from the looks of it, the treasure no longer seemed to be absorbing any more of Lou Yi’s blood.

Looking at the dense mist in front of him, Lou Yi sent another drop of blood but it slid down the side of the fan and dropped onto the ground below.

Everyone noticed how the fan was no longer working and Fei Gu frowned. “Are we at the end of the mist? Could the entrance to the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake be right in front of us?”

“Won’t we know if we take another step forward?” Lou Zhe muttered.

Right before he could take another step, Lou Yi grabbed him.

Fei Gu continued, “Young Master Zhe, if the fan truly lost its effects, you might be sent straight down to the foot of the mountain if you take a step in a random direction.

At that moment, Shan Yunchao glanced at Shang Xia who was behind all of them and the others seemed to realize his meaning. They turned to Shang Xia in unison.

With so many people staring at him, Shang Xia revealed an anxious expression as he muttered, “Why don’t I get rid of the mist...”

Gathering his dipper qi, a ray of gray light emerged from his body again. However, it didn’t sweep in all directions like he did earlier. Instead, it shot straight for the most concentrated part of the mist.

As the streak of gray light shot through the mist, everything in the surroundings was revealed.

After 300 or so feet, the mist disappeared and a protection barrier was revealed. A figure could be seen standing behind the barrier.

“That’s the grand formation of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake! Don’t touch it!” Fei Gu yelled in fright.

Even without his reminder, Shang Xia had already severed the energy he supplied to the ray of gray light. However, it continued on its way and slammed into the barrier before starting to corrode it.

Naturally, his actions would raise the suspicions of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake and they would soon be discovered.

“Quick, hurry up and get over there!” Lou Yi yelled as the mist started to return.

Silently infiltrating the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake was naturally impossible. However, retreating was out of the question. They could only go all out and barge in with brute force.

When they rushed at the barrier, the figure behind it seemed to have gotten closer.

“Be careful...” Huang Yu wanted to warn the rest.

However, Lou Yi quickly interrupted, “That’s our guy in the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake!”

Heaving a sigh of relief, they wanted to take a look past the barrier to see who it was. However, they quickly discovered that they couldn’t see his true appearance no matter how hard they tried.

The barrier wasn't the only thing obscuring his appearance. It seemed as though he was actively hiding his features from the rest to prevent his identity from being revealed.

All of them turned to Lou Yi as they wondered what to do next.

It was a shame... Lou Yi didn't know what to do either! He seemed to not know how to establish contact with the person through the barrier and everyone knew that with the commotion they caused, the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake would soon arrive to inspect the barrier.

All of a sudden, Shang Xia discovered the figure behind the barrier speeding up as it charged at them.

"Be careful!" Shan Yunchao's voice rang through the air instead as Shang Xia remained silent.

From the looks of it, the person behind the barrier didn't seem to be charging straight at them.

A soft pop was heard the next moment as a spike-like weapon pierced through the translucent protection barrier. The weapon was quickly retrieved as the blurry figure behind the barrier started to retreat at a rapid pace. A tiny pin-sized hole appeared on the barrier as the dipper qi that was left behind prevented it from being restored instantly.

"Hurry!" Lou Yi rushed towards the small hole in the barrier and yelled at Shang Xia. At the same time, he tried to look at the figure to figure out who he was. However, he was too late as the figure had already disappeared.

Shang Xia quickly arrived before the tiny hole. Even though the dipper qi was holding out, it would eventually run out. The hole was already starting to close even though it was at an extremely slow pace... He couldn't care less about blocking Lou Yi's line of sight as he slammed his palm into the tiny hole. His Five Element Dipper Qi continued to pour out in a stream of gray light and corroded the protection barrier through the hole. He had to make an opening big enough for them to pass through!

"What now?!" Lou Zhe yelled at Shang Xia, and he couldn't help but remind, "We need to pass through the protection barrier before the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake arrive, otherwise..."

"Shut up!" Lou Yi finally snapped as he stared at Shang Xia's palm that was pressed firmly on the protection barrier.

"Hurry and look..." Fei Gu yelled in shock.

He didn't need to say much as everyone saw what was happening. An opening appeared where Shang Xia's palm was and it eventually reached the size of his palm.

"Brother Shang won't be able to sustain it for much longer..." Huang Yu stared at Shang Xia's trembling hands and the strained look on his face. He couldn't help but worry.

He understood that Shang Xia was definitely holding back, but that was the grand formation of a powerful Elysium! Even if there was a weakness, how could they create an opening so easily?!

Moreover, Huang Yu didn't want Shang Xia to exhaust himself too much either. Additionally, he wanted to see if Lou Yi and the others had any other tricks up their sleeves.

Chapter 968: Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake

“Brother Shang won't be able to sustain it for much longer...” Huang Yu wanted to use the chance to smoke out the trump cards and tricks Lou Yi and the others were hiding.

He would rather smash his head into a wall and kill himself than believe that True Immortal Chong Shan didn't prepare anything for them in case they ran into trouble. He even believed that Lou Yi and the others had more than 1 trump card on them.

It was true that Shang Xia was exhausting a good amount of dipper qi, but it was far from how badly he portrayed it.

Lou Yi and the others also seem to understand how dire the situation was. The experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake weren't deaf or blind and neither were they fools. They would definitely send someone to investigate the matter of a region of weakness suddenly appearing in their grand formation.

Lou Yi's expression wasn't the best at the moment, but it wasn't actually because of Shang Xia. It was because of their spy...

With a soft grunt, Lou Yi pulled the brass bracelet off his wrist and it started to expand.

Seeing as it reached the same size as the hole Shang Xia had corroded from the barrier, Lou Yi shoved it in without hesitation.

Shang Xia no longer needed to exhaust as much inner qi and he felt the pressure on him lessening slightly. With the gap quickly widening to the size of a man, Huang Yu yelled, “I'll take the lead!”

Clearly, he had to take the chance to improve Lou Yi's impression of him at the moment. Being the first to go in would mean that he would be risking his life in case he ran into any sort of ambush.

Who would have thought that Lou Yi would stop him before he could rush through the hole? Lou Yi's growl rang in everyone's ears. “No. You'll stay behind me. Senior Brother Shan, you'll be the last to enter.”

After he spoke, he didn't wait for Huang Yu to say anything else before he rushed through the gap in the barrier.

Huang Yu followed behind him after snapping out of his shock.

With a soft chuckle, Fei Gu muttered, “Alright, I'll go next.”

Shang Xua turned to look at Lou Zhe, and he saw Lou Zhe staring back at him.

Without waiting for either of them to give way to each other, Shan Yunchao growled, “The Nine Aperture Bracelet wouldn't be able to hold for too long! Mister Shang, please enter!”

Shang Xia didn't try to decline and he nodded before rushing through the gap. He entered the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake the next moment.

Lou Zhe and Shan Yunchao rushed in behind him.

Now that everyone had entered, Lou Yi casually pointed to the barrier, and the Nine Aperture Bracelet shrank and returned to his wrist.

All 6 of them had no time to admire the amazing scenery of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake as they felt several powerful auras in the distance racing towards them.

The protection formation then emitted powerful rays of light as restrictions around them started to activate.

The Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake still possessed an Elysium at the end of the day and the grand formation didn't just cause a layer of mist to restrict one's divine will and create a barrier... Their grand formation was a massive combination of several formations!

Even if an enemy managed to get past the protection barrier, they would be surrounded by countless layers of restrictions until their experts arrived.

However, the location where Lou Yi and the others arrived seemed completely void of any sort of restrictions. Their spy in the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake most likely destroyed all the restrictions in the surrounding already!

Strangely enough, their spy didn't bother meeting them. He left after doing his job and he seemed like he didn't wish to reveal his identity.

Whatever it was, all of them knew that they shouldn't be standing around. With Lou Yi leading the way again, they left.

Fei Gu, who was trailing behind, laughed suddenly, "Our spy in the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake seems to have his own agenda for doing this..."

Lou Yi didn't say anything, but his expression was extremely gloomy at the moment.

Lou Zhe grunted in a low voice while standing close to the back of the group, "Third Brother, Senior Brother Shan, do you know the identity of our spy?"

Lou Yi didn't respond as he continued to lead the way. Instead, Shan Yunchao was the one who replied, "I'm afraid only Ancestor Chong Shan would know who he is..."

He didn't forget to glance at Lou Yi after he spoke. However, as he was the person in the very last position, no one managed to notice his strange action.

Unlike everyone else who was feeling extremely uneasy, Shang Xia seemed a lot more relaxed now that they entered the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake. He even had the luxury to spread his divine will around to inspect their surroundings.

"Where are we going now?" Seeing as no one else was talking, Shang Xia decided to break the awkward silence.

The heaven and earth qi in the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake was a lot denser than outside and Shang Xia was circulating his inner qi to restore the dipper qi he had lost earlier.

His Five Element Origin was able to convert the world origin of the Spirit Abundance World into energy for himself, and even he didn't expect it before entering the world. Not only was it easier to pretend to be an expert from the Spirit Abundance World, but he was also able to get rid of the

repulsion from the world and the hostility of the World's Will. He was no longer suppressed and he regained his combat strength at the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm.

With that, Shang Xia gained another amazing trump card he could use in case anything went wrong, and not even Huang Yu knew about it.

Since he was able to regain all of his combat abilities, he wasn't afraid of anyone under the Martial Void Realm! Unless a True Immortal personally took part in the battle, he could handle anything else! That was his greatest source of confidence at the moment.

Lou Yi, who was walking at the very front, muttered without even turning his head. "We're going to the Heavenly Lake Secret Region!"

Shang Xia learned that the Heavenly Lake Secret Region contained the Elysium of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake from their conversations some time ago. However, Lou Yi stopped the next moment and muttered, "The experts from the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake have surrounded us..."

Lou Zhe, who stood close to the back of the group, muttered, "Senior Brother Shan and I will deal with this. Third Brother, you guys look for the secret region. It would be for the best if you manage to find our guy..."

They disappeared the next moment and powerful fluctuations appeared in the distance. It was clear a massive battle had broken out. From the disturbance, they seemed to be headed for the entrance of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake.

"Follow me!" Lou Yi continued to lead the way. After entering the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake, Lou Yi seemed to have transformed into a completely different person.

Huang Yu shot a discrete glance at Shang Xia before rushing behind Lou Yi.

Perhaps Shan Yunchao and Lou Zhe attracted too much attention, but Lou Yi and the others didn't run into any accidents as they made their way deeper into the faction.

Not too long later, they passed a mountain ridge and the lake that was protected by the Five Links Ridge appeared in their sights.

"Is this the Heavenly Lake?" Huang Yu couldn't help but take a step forward while gasping in admiration. The scene was simply too magnificent. Despite looking at the lake, he seemed to notice Lou Yi hiding something in his sleeves the next moment.

"That's right. This is the Heavenly Lake and it's where the Heavenly Lake Secret Region is..." Lou Yi replied.

Chapter 969: Heavenly Lake Elysium

From what Shang Xia learned, any Elysium, Secret Region, or even Holy Lands, would need a treasure to support it. If Lou Yi's introduction was correct, the Heavenly Lake that was protected by the Five Links Ridge was the treasure that was supporting the Elysium of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake. In fact, one could say that the Elysium had already fused and become one with the Heavenly Lake.

Huang Yu muttered curiously, “Is this where the secret region is? How are we supposed to enter the Elysium? Are we supposed to jump in the lake or something?”

Lou Yi turned to look at Shang Xia suddenly, and said in a cool voice, “I’m afraid Brother Shang will need to make his move...”

“Me?” Shang Xia was slightly surprised, but he quickly thought of a reason. “Young Master Lou Yi, are you asking me to stir up the Heavenly Lake with my energy and force the Secret Region to reveal itself?”

A smile appeared on Lou Yi’s face and he muttered, “Brother Shang, you’re a genius and your dipper qi should possess exceptional properties in getting rid of formations and restrictions. I will need your help on this matter.”

“This... The Heavenly Lake is massive and if I have to stir up the entire body of water, I’m afraid even if I exhaust all my energy, I won’t be able to do so. Even if I succeed by a fluke, I will greatly harm my Dipper Origin and enter a state of weakness!” Shang Xia revealed a pained look and started to hesitate.

The smile on Lou Yi’s face was no longer radiating warmth like before and there was a trace of chill flashing across his eyes. “Brother Shang, there’s no need to worry. With us around, your safety is assured. All you need to do is to locate the Secret Region that contains the Elysium. We won’t need you to create an entrance by shattering the protective barrier around it.”

Shang Xia turned to look at Huang Yu ‘for help’. After all, that was the most logical thing for him to do since he was supposed to be invited over by Huang Yu from the Star Origin City. His actions would greatly reduce any suspicion they might have.

Huang Yu avoided Shang Xia’s gaze and played his part perfectly. An awkward smile hung on his face and he mumbled, “Brother Shang, rest assured that Young Master Lou Yi will keep his word. You will be fine.”

After he spoke, he turned to Lou Yi and revealed a strange look in his eyes and muttered, “Young Master Lou Yi, do you think...”

Lou Yi nodded slightly. “Brother Shang, your cultivation has already reached the fourth element of the Martial Dipper Realm. When this is over, I will assist you in finding a suitable Origin Dipper. My Lou Family and the Emptiness Drifting Mountain will help you when you refine your fifth fate dipper.”

The higher one’s cultivation level gets, the more difficult it would be to improve. In the Martial Dipper Realm, finding a suitable Origin Dipper to refine wasn’t the hardest part. The most difficult thing to do was to refine it while maintaining a balance with the rest of their fate dippers.

Lou Yi’s promise would definitely move any fourth element Martial Dipper Realm expert, but it was a shame Shang Xia wasn’t one.

Whatever it was, Shang Xia put on a worried look and muttered, “But... This is where the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake’s base camp is located. We only have 6 people right now...”

He was still acting as though he didn’t believe they would be able to keep him safe when he completely exhausted himself from locating the Secret Region.

Fei Gu, who remained silent the entire time, burst out laughing in response. “Brother Shang, why do you think that no one has surrounded us even though we broke into their faction and came all the way here?”

Taken aback by Fei Gu’s question, Shang Xia raised an eyebrow and muttered, “Isn’t it because they suffered heavy losses and Brother Shan and Young Master Lou Zhe lured those who came to chase us away?”

“Heh, like you said, this is the base camp of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake. Their history travels back thousands of years and even if they suffered heavy losses they wouldn’t allow us to enter this place as we wish.” Fei Gu continued.

Shang Xia didn’t know how to respond to that and even Lou Yi and Huang Yu revealed looks of unease.

Ever since they passed through the mist surrounding the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake and the protective barrier, their journey seemed too smooth.

Huang Yu couldn’t help but ask, “Is it because of our spy?”

Lou Yi’s expression changed slightly. However, he felt that if their spy could really be trusted, he wouldn’t be avoiding them and preventing them from learning his identity. He was basically sure that their spy had other plans and was no longer completely loyal to them.

Fei Gu raised his head to glance at Lou Yi before chuckling softly in response, “No. If I’m not mistaken, the Martial Dipper Realm experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake are in seclusion and trying to break through to the Martial Void Realm as soon as possible!”

Huang Yu clapped Shang Xia’s shoulders the next second and sighed, “Brother Shang, give it a shot. Since we’re already here, it will be such a waste to leave everything behind and leave!”

Shang Xia hesitated slightly but eventually nodded slightly in Lou Yi’s direction. He made his way over to the edge of the Heavenly Lake.

When they saw how he was standing at the edge of the lake without moving, Huang Yu and the others couldn’t help but urge him on. “Brother Shang?”

“Huh?” Shang Xia gasped and he seemed to have awakened from a dream.

Huang Yu felt that something strange was going on and he couldn’t help but ask, “Is something not quite right?”

“No, no... I’ll start right now!” Shang Xia smiled and brushed it off. As soon as he spoke, he plunged both his arms into the water and the originally calm surface sank violently.

The space above the Heavenly Lake fluctuated violently and Lou Yi couldn’t help but praise, “Brother Huang, you bringing Brother Shang back here is our greatest fortune...”

The fluctuations reached the peak of its intensity after the words left Lou Yi’s lips and soon after, space started to fracture above the lake. An endless amount of water emerged from the void and came crashing down on everyone who was at the side of the lake.

The next second, they discovered that their surroundings had changed. They were supposed to be standing on a tall mountain ridge earlier, but they seemed to have appeared at the bottom of some sort of crater. The unending amount of water came crashing down from above.

“It’s a trap!”

The thought barely formed in their minds before they were swept away by the powerful current.

Naturally, experts at their level wouldn’t be afraid of some water. Even if the sea came crashing down on them, they would be able to protect themselves with their dipper qi and prevent themselves from being swept away. However... The water that was pouring down from the void this time was the water that had fused together with the Elysium!

When Shang Xia caused the space above the lake to crack, the illusion was shattered at the same time and their true position was revealed!

As the water came crashing down from the skies above, they discovered where the hell they actually were. Instead of standing by the side of the Heavenly Lake, they were right under it!

When they barged into the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake, they seemed to have already fallen into an illusion created by the grand formation.

The massive tide might be able to sweep them away, but it was far from enough to suppress them completely. However, pushing them away was enough as it restricted their movements. They found it hard to even take a step forward.

Several streaks of light appeared from above the Heavenly Lake as they rushed towards the bottom where Lou Yi and the others were. Those streaks of light didn’t seem to be restricted by the water at all.

The Martial Dipper Realm experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake were clearly alerted by such a big commotion. The trap that had been set up by the grand formation was meant to trap anyone who tried infiltrating their faction in the first place.

However, another massive tremor shook the Heavenly Lake as the battle formation of those from the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake was messed up slightly. Fortunately, the tremor disappeared as quickly as it arrived and didn’t seem to affect much.

Lou Yi and the others who were at the bottom of the lake naturally wouldn’t sit still and accept their fates. A massive bronze-colored ring appeared as the water around it was forced away. A region of dry land was created in an instant.

Huang Yu stood beside Lou Yi with a look of lingering fear on his face.

If not for the fact that Shang Xia warned him secretly that it was a trap and to stick beside Lou Yi, he might be like Fei Gu who was swept to god knew where at the moment.

However, there was only one question left on his mind. *Where the hell is that brat?!*”

Huang Yu refused to believe that Shang Xia was swept away like Fei Gu after discovering that the whole thing was a trap. He knew that the youngster definitely discovered something.

Even with his many considerations, Huang Yu stared at the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake who were surrounding them. He muttered in a panicked voice, “Young Master Lou Yi, Mister Fei is gone! What do we do now?”

Several loud blasts rang through the air suddenly as Lou Yi’s brass bracelet trembled violently. Their scalps went numb.

Composing himself, Lou Yi growled, “There’s no need to panic. My brass bracelet is something the Ancestor personally bestowed on me... Those random Martial Dipper Realm experts won’t be able to shatter the protective barrier it creates.”

Hesitating slightly, Huang Yu continued to ask, “Young Master, are we going to call for Young Master Lou Zhe and Senior Brother Shan Yunchao over to meet up with us?”

Glancing at Huang Yu from the corner of his eye with an expression that was hard to read, Lou Yi spoke casually, “Do you think they will be of any help right now?”

“This...” Huang Yu didn’t know what he meant, but he seemed to hear the hidden meaning in Lou Yi’s voice.

“Falling into traps after barging into someone else’s faction isn’t surprising at all. However, the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake’s greatest mistake was to allow us to enter in the first place!” Lou Yi muttered.

Huang Yu’s pupils constricted. For Lou Yi to say something like that meant that he definitely had a trump card that would allow them to turn the tides of battle no matter what!

However, he was also raising his guard in secret. He could tell that in Lou Yi’s eyes, Fei Gu and Shang Xia had already been abandoned. As such, he was the next one in danger of being sacrificed!

A long shuttle appeared on Lou Yi’s palm the next moment and he said in a low voice, “These dumbasses of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake... I was still troubled about finding the entrance to the Secret Region that houses their Elysium... Who would have thought that those fools would run out on their own accord?”

After he spoke, he tossed the shuttle in his hand out and it instantly transformed into a strange looking wooden boat.

“What are you waiting for? Get up here!” Lou Yi gestured to Huang Yu.

Racing over, Huang Yu felt the boat rising slightly the moment he stepped on. The bronze-colored ring created by the brass bracelet rose together with them and remained spinning around beneath the shuttle.

Without the bronze ring, nothing stopped the water from flooding in the region again.

As it shot towards the surface of the lake, it pushed the water around it to the side. Lou Yi and Huang Yu could feel the attacks of 7 to 8 experts trying to stop them but to no avail.

The scene in front of them changed the next moment as they entered a tranquil underwater world, free from any raging flow of water.

“Hahaha! Now this is it! We entered the Heavenly Lake Elysium!” Lou Yi burst into laughter the next moment.

However, a powerful tide appeared in the underwater world and flipped the shuttle and its protective bronze ring barrier over the next instant.

Chapter 970: The Island and the Power of an Elysium

Shang Xia always felt something was wrong when he followed Lou Yi and the others deeper into the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake. However, he couldn't quite put his finger on what it was. Only when Lou Yi requested for him to reveal the Heavenly Lake Elysium did he realize what happened. He noticed that every reflection in the lake was inverted when he approached it earlier.

He had a guess in his mind, but he continued to break the illusion anyway. He warned Huang Yu secretly about what was going to happen next and to stick beside Lou Yi as soon as anything went wrong.

Shang Xia had been observing Lou Yi for some time now. That included both times when he used his brass bracelet. From the first time they met, Shang Xia felt that there was a shroud over Lou Yi's body masking his aura, and he found it difficult to fully see through the man.

That was precisely why Shang Xia determined that Lou Yi definitely had other trump cards prepared by True Immortal Chong Shan!

Shang Xia was extremely confident in his own abilities. For him not to be able to see through Martial Dipper Realm experts meant that they definitely had treasures from a Martial Void Realm True Immortal. He refused to believe that other than treasures that contained a True Immortal's Void Qi, any Martial Dipper Qi realm expert would be able to conceal their secrets from him.

What happened next went exactly as he expected. The 'Heavenly Lake' they saw was indeed a trap. When Shang Xia's dipper qi disturbed the peace of the lake, the entire lake flipped over and trapped them at the very bottom!

The experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake weren't fools. The trap they set was most likely used to deal with experts in the Martial Dipper Realm. Unfortunately, against Lou Yi who had an unknown number of treasures from a True Immortal, and Shang Xia who carved out his own path to the grand completion stage of the Five Element Realm, their methods were laughable at best. They weren't facing experts with a reasonable amount of power!

Shang Xia also had a horrifying ability. When the water appeared, he had already discovered the true location of the Heavenly Lake Elysium.

When the water crashed down against them earlier, Lou Yi and the rest were too occupied with the disturbance and couldn't care about anything else. They didn't realize that when the region was filled with water from the Heavenly Lake, Shang Xia unleashed his Water Element Movement Art and entered the Elysium before anyone else.

When Shang Xia comprehended his martial intent, his level of mastery over his Five Element Movement Art also reached a new level.

His rank five Water Element Movement Art was fully unleashed and Shang Xia's fusion with the water from the Heavenly Lake surpassed the compatibility of the Heavenly Lake Elysium and the water from the lake.

It was a shame the Heavenly Lake Elysium was located in a Secret Region. It was protected by a spatial barrier and Shang Xia was unable to sneak his way in easily.

He understood that he wouldn't be able to remain in the water for long even when using his movement art. Otherwise, he would be able to completely integrate himself with the water and become a part of the Heavenly Lake.

The experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake reacted next. They understood that the water wouldn't be able to kill the experts who trespassed, and would be able to restrain their movements at best. As such, they raced out of the Heavenly Lake Elysium to rush at Lou Yi and Huang Yu. They wanted to kill the intruders, but they failed to detect Shang Xia's presence in the water. When they rushed out of the Elysium earlier, Shang Xia managed to use the gap to enter without anyone noticing him.

As the Elysium was managed by a True Immortal for hundreds, or even thousands of years, even if Shang Xia managed to enter the Heavenly Lake Elysium, it was hard not to be obstructed by some sort of high-level restriction or methods they left behind. Fortunately for him, they no longer had a True Immortal to support those methods or restrictions. In fact, they didn't even have too many high-level Martial Dipper Realm experts to hold the fort. It wasn't an exaggeration to say that they were in an extremely weakened state at the moment and no one could stop Shang Xia's infiltration.

The layer of restriction that managed to obstruct him was quickly corroded by his Five Element Qi.

The only thing that shocked Shang Xia when he entered was the fact that the Elysium was actually an underwater world!

Before he had the chance to appreciate the views, the dense world origin in the Heavenly Lake Elysium caused the Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness to react.

The Spirit Abundance World might be a Spirit World like the Spirit Luxuriant World, but the Spirit Abundance World clearly had much stronger foundations. At the same time, the Crimson Soul Tablet that developed an exquisite taste for world origin noticed something new. As the pure world origin bubbles drifted around him, Shang Xia discovered that those bubbles weren't actually rising to the surface of the lake. Instead, they started to drift in Shang Xia's direction.

The pure bubbles of world origin disappeared the moment they came into contact with him and they were devoured by the Crimson Soul Tablet in a second.

Because he used the Crimson Soul Tablet to come up with his rank five martial intent back then and his rank six advancement formula, it suffered quite a bit of damage. Now that it started to absorb world origin from the Spirit Abundance World, it started to restore itself.

However, Shang Xia realized that he wasn't in the best of situations at the moment.

As he got rid of the restrictions in his way, his presence was revealed to the world and he was immediately noticed by several experts who remained in the Heavenly Lake Elysium.

Shang Xia used a second to adjust his condition and familiarize himself with the world origin when he was surrounded by 2 powers of extreme chill. A layer of frost started to make his way towards him.

The most direct way of countering the power of frost would be to use his Fire Element Dipper Qi, but currently, he was underwater and using Fire Element Dipper Qi was really disadvantageous. However, even if he was unable to use Fire Element Dipper Qi, he wasn't exactly taking any of them seriously.

Five colored light flashed across the bottom of the lake and restored the water that had been frozen to its original state. By the time the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake reacted, the person was no longer there.

The 2 of them arrived in different directions and they saw the shock in each other's eyes. Neither of them had any idea how the expert disappeared before their eyes!

A bad premonition filled their hearts...

However, the next second, another opening was torn open and a strange wooden boat that was surrounded by a bronze-colored ring barged into the Heavenly Lake Elysium. By the time they noticed it, the wooden boat seemed to have reached its limit.

The experts who tried to stop Shang Xia earlier exchanged a gaze and sent a powerful wave of energy over. A massive tide swept through the underwater world and flipped the wooden boat, tossing the other 2 intruders who entered into the water.

The 2 of them seemed to have forgotten all about the person who disappeared earlier as they focused on dealing with the intruders before them.

Behind the intruders were experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake who were starting to return. The intruders were pincerred from both the front and the back.

Shang Xia, who managed to get rid of the 2 of them earlier, was swimming about in the Heavenly Lake Elysium. He eventually arrived at the surface of the lake after swimming for some time and he saw that other than a massive island that sat at the center of the lake, there was no other land presence. The skies and the rest of the lake were the only things that were left.

Intense spatial fluctuations came from the entrance of the Heavenly Lake Elysium where he disappeared from earlier and Shang Xia chuckled softly to himself. He rushed out from the surface of the lake and concealed his presence before flying towards the island.

When he was thousands of feet away from the island, Shang Xia noticed something strange with the space around him.

Cursing silently, he didn't have time to think what went wrong with his concealment as he tore open the void before him. His figure flashed thrice and he appeared in 3 different spots above the lake and he quickly retreated from the island.

As soon as he left, a giant palm made from the water in the lake rose into the skies and grabbed the spot he was standing on. The next moment, the giant palm froze over and shattered, sending countless knives and swords made from ice at Shang Xia's first position after he retreated. Of course, they failed to hit anything.

However, those swords and knives made from ice seemed to receive some massive boost as they gathered together again after falling into the lake and formed a giant ice spear. It flew at the second spot he appeared.

Shang Xia seemed prepared as he moved thrice earlier, successfully avoiding the ice spear.

The power that was targeting Shang Xia seemed a little reluctant to accept things as they were and the ice spear started to crumble. It gathered all the energy it had left to maintain the form of an ice arrow before shooting forward with a sharp whistle. Surprisingly, the ice arrow shot into the void and disappeared.

Shang Xia basically retreated to the spot he emerged from the water earlier and after avoiding several attempts on his life, he pretty much recognized what was targeting him.

It wasn't the power of a formation, and neither was it experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake. It wasn't a type of formation or divine weapon either. Instead, it seemed to be the world origin of the Elysium!

More accurately, it was the power of the Heavenly Lake Elysium!

Shang Xia was a little afraid when he discovered what was happening. After all, he had only seen Martial Void Realm experts controlling the power of an Elysium back in the Spirit Luxuriant World and he understood that the power of the Elysium was an extremely abstract type of energy.

Could an expert of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake have already stepped into the Martial Void Realm?!

Shang Xia sank into contemplation. He had experienced the exchange between True Immortals many times, and he had also seen how they roused the power of their Elysiums. He discovered that the power targeting him was extremely weak, and no matter how hard he tried to connect it to the skills of a Martial Void Realm expert, it just didn't make sense! It was far from the power of a Martial Void Realm True Immortal!

The thing that was targeting him was very likely not a True Immortal himself. It should be some sort of hidden mechanism left behind by the seniors of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake! It was most likely some method that allowed an expert who hadn't reached the Martial Void Realm to borrow the power of the Elysium by using some sort of external help!

The source of the energy and whatever was drawing the power of the Elysium was most likely located on the island!

After clearing everything up, Shang Xia didn't avoid the ice arrow that was flying at him through the void. Instead, a powerful ray of light emerged from his body and struck the ice arrow. From the tip, it started to disintegrate and eventually, several clear droplets of water fell back into the lake below.