

## The Heavens 971

Chapter 971: Elysium Boundary Marker and Dai Yikong

After getting rid of the ice arrow and shattering the power of the Elysium, the lake returned to its original calm.

It became so calm that not a ripple could be seen. The surface was so calm that the Heavenly Lake resembled a clear mirror.

Shang Xia stood on the surface of the lake and stared at the island with no obstruction in his way.

There was no doubt about it. The island was definitely an important presence in the Heavenly Lake Elysium. There had to be experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake on the island prepared to defend it. The appearance of the giant palm was evidence of their presence.

Shang Xia, who was staring the island down with a covetous gaze, maintained his silence. The experts on the island didn't seem to be trying to get rid of him when he was so far away. Or perhaps, it was because they realized that they wouldn't be able to do a thing even if they used the power of the Elysium. They could only defend passively against whatever Shang Xia threw against them!

The only question in Shang Xia's mind at the moment was how the experts on the island were able to draw on the power of the Elysium.

Through his observation, Shang Xia could be sure that there wasn't a single Martial Void Realm expert on the island! As such, the possibilities were extremely limited. It had to be certain mechanisms or skills the True Immortals of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake left behind, or it might have something to do with formations or talismans... The next second, a certain thought appeared in his mind. *What if... What if that island is where one of the 3 great treasures of the Elysium is located?*

The more he thought about it, the more he felt it was possible. The only question left was which of the 3 was it! Was it the Elysium Boundary Marker, the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar, or the Origin Holy Artifact?!

A deep rumble came from beneath him the next second as powerful ripples appeared on the surface of the water. Eventually, giant waves were created.

No matter how powerful the disturbance, it failed to affect how Shang Xia stood on the surface of the water.

A deep and dull rumble came from one of the massive waves that was created as it rushed at the island in the distance. The formless power of the Elysium was activated once again, and the wave was gradually suppressed as it traveled closer to the island.

Eventually, 2 figures emerged from the water with Lou Yi in the lead. The protective bronze-colored ring still surrounded them as it withstood the attacks of 4 Martial Dipper Realm experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake. They continued to rush towards the island.

One of the experts who was trying to stop Lou Yi and Huang Yu yelled suddenly, "Senior Sister Lu Qinhuan, the enemy has come and I hope you can make a move to stop them! We need to chase them out of the Elysium at all costs!"

It was a shame he received no answer.

The 4 experts didn't fall into despair nor did they panic even though they didn't receive a reply. Instead, they continued to bombard Lou Yi and Huang Yu in an attempt to stall them. They were unable to penetrate the protective bronze-colored ring, but they were able to push them away from the island.

When Lou Yu and Huang Yu burst out from the surface of the water earlier, Shang Xia had already run several miles out. He was hiding slightly more than 10 miles away from the island at the moment and he stared at everything going on. A sense of unease crept into his heart.

The problem wasn't the fact that the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake were pushing Lou Yi and Huang Yu away from the island. Instead, the aura he felt when Lou Yi and Huang Yu emerged earlier was completely off! It was far too weak for what they were supposed to be!

It didn't matter if Huang Yu was the only one who had a weak aura. He was in the third element of the Martial Dipper Realm in the first place and he was being suppressed by the Elysium. He would barely be able to maintain his original battle capabilities with his amazing rank five spear art.

However, something was definitely off with Lou Yi. As someone who had reached the large completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm, he was only missing his martial intent before taking the final step into the grand completion stage! He would also definitely be given great attention and care from the Emptiness Drifting Mountain. He also had the care of Martial Void Realm True Immortals, and there was no way he would be so weak!

When facing the 4 experts surrounding them, Lou Yi might be holding 3 of them off while Huang Yu was only dealing with 1. However, Shang Xia felt that it was far from enough. Lou Yi was definitely hiding his true strength!

The biggest question would be why Lou Yi was still hiding his strength at that point. What was he waiting for?

Shang Xia stared at the island in the center of the lake. *Is he afraid of the expert who can draw on the power of the Elysium?*

Even though the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake were trying to push Lou Yi and Huang Yu away, they failed in their task as the battle approached thousands of feet away from the island.

The expert who yelled for help earlier screamed again, "Senior Sister Lu, what are you waiting for?!"

His words barely left his lips when the power of the Elysium was drawn upon again. Several palms emerged from the lake but it didn't reach for Lou Yi or Huang Yu. Instead, they went for the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake.

"What?!"

"You're going for the wrong target!"

"Senior Sister Lu, what are you doing?!"

"Wait... Lu Qinhuang, You... Who the hell are you?! Argh..."

The sudden attack caught the 4 experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Peak off guard. 2 of them managed to forcefully shake off the restraints of the giant palms, but their combat strength was still

greatly suppressed. The other 2 were weaker to begin with and with the appearance of the giant palms, they couldn't move at all. One of them failed to split off a Fate Dipper Clone in time and Lou Yi took the chance to shatter his fate dippers with a strong punch that also destroyed his opponent's heart.

The expert managed to split off a clone and freed himself for a second. However, he discovered that his true body was still stuck in the restraints of the giant palm.

Huang Yu sent the clone flying with a swing of his spear. Soon after, he stabbed the spear straight into the other party's chest and his dipper qi shattered the organs completely.

Seeing as the situation was going south, the 2 stronger experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake couldn't be bothered with what was happening on the island. They started to fly to other parts of the Heavenly Lake Elysium. Lou Yi tossed his brass bracelet and trapped one of them before they could fly out of reach.

Huang Yu wanted to stop the other, but the expert was just far too nimble. He was also stronger than Huang Yu and after using a protective treasure, he managed to shake Huang Yu off. He flew out of the range of the expert on the island before running out of the Heavenly Lake Elysium.

After stopping one of the experts, Lou Yi didn't immediately head for the island with Huang Yu. Instead, he stood his ground and growled cautiously, "Senior Brother Dai Yikong, is that you?"

Only then did Huang Yu realize that Lou Yi already knew the identity of their spy in the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake. However, he didn't know why the spy wasn't willing to show himself and why Lou Yi refused to talk about it.

A moment later, a cold and solemn voice came from the island. "The 2 of you can head to the middle palace on the island for a chat with me!"

Huang Yu glanced at Lou Yi and saw that he wasn't planning to head over.

"I guess we won't head over for now. There's something I don't understand and I would need Senior Brother Dai to enlighten me on something. Which of the 3 treasures does the middle palace contain?" Lou Yi asked.

The frosty voice came again. "Relax. The Elysium Boundary Marker is contained in the middle palace."

"Since that's the case, I guess I won't be heading to the island for now. I won't disturb Senior Brother Dai from gaining better control over the Elysium. However, I hope you can point out the palace that contains the Holy Artifact." Lou Yi muttered.

"Since you're not willing to come over, so be it!" The voice rang through the air. It paused for a short time before it continued, "The Origin Holy Artifact is located at the bottom of the lake 50 miles away from this island. That's the true core of the Elysium and now, it's where the Origin Holy Artifact is connected to the World Origin Source."

"Many thanks for Senior Brother Dai's guidance!" Lou Yi cupped his fists in the direction of the island before preparing to leave.

“You can’t blame me for not reminding you.” The voice came again when Huang Yu and Lou Yi were preparing to leave. “You guys aren’t the only ones who entered the Heavenly Lake Elysium. Before you arrived, a hidden expert already attempted to rush to the island. If not for Lu Qinhuan giving it her all to stop him, I wouldn’t have been able to find an opportunity to kill her..”

Huang Yu immediately thought of Shang Xia, but the look of shock on his face didn’t show the slightest flaw.

Lou Yi turned to stare at the island and asked, “Senior Brother Dai, do you know the identity of the mysterious cultivator? Did you see his appearance?”

“Nope. His ability to conceal himself is brilliant and back then the Elysium Boundary Maker was controlled by Lu Qinhuan. I was unable to discover his presence at all.”

“What about now?” Lou Yi pushed for an answer.

“That person has already left. The Elysium Boundary Market might allow me to control what happens in the Elysium, but only a True Immortal would be able to make full use of it. Moreover, I just gained control over the treasure and I am far from comparable to Lu Qinhuan when it comes to using it..”

Chapter 972: Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar

Lou Yi and Huang Yu might have finally ascertained the identity of their spy, but they didn’t head over to the island where he was. Instead, they turned to leave immediately.

Huang Yu followed silently behind Lou Yi and he didn’t dare to speak.

After they traveled tens of miles away from the island, Lou Yi broke the silence and asked, “Don’t you find it weird that I didn’t head to the island to meet Dai Yikong?”

Huang Yu didn’t answer the question directly. Instead, he muttered, “Young Master Lou Yi, do you not trust him?”

“It’s not about trust. It’s every man for themselves... Since our spy already developed thoughts of hiding and protecting himself, it’s best not to push him too far. At the very least, he knows his limits. The Elysium Boundary Marker might be important, but he won’t obstruct our plan even if he refines it.” Lou Yi muttered.

After thinking for a second, Huang Yu asked, “If he manages to refine the Elysium Boundary Marker, wouldn’t that mean that he would be able to draw on the power of the Elysium? If no True Immortal descends, wouldn’t he be invincible?”

Lou Yi sighed in response, “We made use of him to barge into the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake and he made use of us to draw the attention of their Martial Dipper Realm experts. When they were distracted, he took the chance to sneak attack and kill Lu Qinhuan, the protector of the middle palace. All of us were merely making use of each other..”

Huang Yu hesitated slightly before forcing out another question. "I heard that the Elysium Boundary Marker is the key to controlling the Elysium... If he refines it, wouldn't that mean that he will be able to force us to do whatever he wishes? If he has any bad intentions, or if he gave us the wrong location of the Origin Holy Artifact..."

"He wouldn't dare!" Lou Yi interrupted him unceremoniously. "Do you really think that I don't have a way to enter the island if he refines the Elysium Boundary Marker? I just didn't want to waste the treasure the Ancestor gave me..."

"Also, do you really think he will be able to gain full control over the Elysium Boundary Marker? That's still a treasure at the level of a Holy Artifact! If he's a True Immortal, there won't be a need to mention a single Holy Artifact. Controlling the Heavenly Lake Elysium wouldn't be a problem! He might be at the fourth element of the Martial Dipper Realm and might be able to use a portion of the power of the Elysium Boundary Marker, but if he really had the abilities, he would have received heavy nurturing from the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake and became a candidate to enter the Martial Void Realm. Why would he need to scheme so much in order to obtain the Elysium Boundary Marker?"

Huang Yu seemed to accept the explanation and he muttered in agreement, "Young Master Lou Yi, you truly thought things through. However, didn't he say that a mysterious person entered the Heavenly Lake Elysium? Could it be..."

Lou Yi glanced at him from the corner of his eye and asked with some hidden meaning in his voice, "Who do you think it is?"

Huang Yu hesitated for a moment and muttered, "When the Heavenly Lake water poured down on us, Brother Shang should have taken the brunt of it. He might be closest to the entrance of the Elysium... Could he be the mysterious expert?"

"Hmph, if Dai Yikong was able to use the power of the Elysium a little earlier, how could the mysterious person be able to hide his presence..." Lou Yi grumbled softly and it was clear he didn't believe Dai Yikong managed to obtain the Elysium Boundary Marker as easily as he made it seem. He quickly followed up, "I'm very happy you can think that way. However, It's not quite possible for it to be Mister Shang Jianqi. His cultivation might not be low and he possesses some special skills, but with the situation he was in, there's no doubt about it. He wouldn't be able to enter the Elysium. Even if I was in his place, if I didn't have the Ancestor's treasure, I would be very lucky if I managed to stay alive..."

Hehe, that's because you have no idea what that little shit is capable of! His cultivation is higher than yours in the first place!

Huang Yu sneered in his heart. However, he had to agree with Lou Yi no matter what and he quickly added, "Could it be..."

Lou Yi revealed a mocking smile and sneered, “The people who might have entered the Heavenly Lake Elysium might not be the few you’re thinking of!”

No longer caring about Huang Yu, Lou Yi started to rush in the direction Dai Yikong pointed out.

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Shang Xia also knew that one of the 3 artifacts related to the existence of the Elysium was located on the island, but he didn’t know what it was. He also didn’t know that the person controlling the power of the Elysium on the island had changed since their exchange.

As Lou Yi and Huang Yu were fighting the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake earlier, the expert on the island was caught off guard and killed by the spy of the Emptiness Drifting Mountain. Shang Xia noticed a powerful fluctuation coming from the entrance of the Heavenly Lake Elysium as 2 experts entered. They stayed away from the island as they rushed in a certain direction. Shang Xia then noticed how Lou Yi and the rest killed the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake next. Since Huang Yu’s safety wasn’t his concern any longer, Shang Xia decided to hide his aura and follow the 2 experts.

He was extremely curious about who they were. Even though he had his guesses, their abilities to conceal themselves were really amazing. He was able to feel their presence, but he couldn’t learn their identities.

After getting 30 miles away from the island, Shang Xia felt the Crimson Soul Tablet reacting once again.

Actually, ever since he stepped into the Heavenly Lake Elysium, Shang Xia allowed the Crimson Soul Tablet to absorb as much world origin as it wanted. As it absorbed whatever it wanted, it also pointed Shang Xia in the direction where world origin was most concentrated.

Earlier, he managed to run straight for the island the moment he entered due to the guidance of the Crimson Soul Tablet.

Now that the tablet was reacting once again, Shang Xia started to hesitate. That was because it was sending him mixed signals. There seemed to be 2 spots with abundant world origin.

One of them was where the 2 concealed auras were rushing while the other was in the opposite direction.

One had to say that along with Shang Xia’s increasing cultivation level, the Crimson Soul Tablet’s desire for world origin was no longer enough. His connection with the Crimson Soul Tablet had also deepened. At his current level, Shang Xia could not only slightly influence it. He was able to adjust its uses...

According to his estimates, the island behind him, the direction the 2 mysterious cultivators were traveling, and the other were the 3 locations where the tablet was pointing to. Shang Xia couldn’t help but connect them to the 3 treasures of an Elysium.

When he hesitated to head over to the other direction or to follow the 2 mystery figures, he discovered 2 familiar auras behind him. Slightly taken aback, he decided to see what they were up to before making a decision.

Lou Yi and Huang Yu moved extremely quickly. Even though Shang Xia was curious why they didn't head straight to the island in the middle, he quickly noticed the direction in which they were moving. They flew towards the 2 mysterious figures who appeared.

Looks like something interesting is going to happen soon!

Of course, everything could have been part of the Emptiness Drifting Mountain or even True Immortal Chong Shan's plan!

After a short moment of contemplation, Shang Xia decided not to head over to join in the fun. He chose to take the chance when there was no one at the third location to properly inspect it. He understood something clearly. Regardless if it was the spy of the Emptiness Drifting Mountain or Lou Yi and gang, all of them would most likely have special trump cards provided by True Immortals. Even though he was confident in himself, he didn't plan to randomly put himself in a position where he would have to face the strength of a True Immortal!

As for Huang Yu's safety... It seemed as though he could only rely on himself. Shang Xia was confident in his ability to adapt to the situation and unless the other party wanted to silence him, it wouldn't be too much of a problem for him to keep himself alive.

The reason the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake sealed their sect was because they wanted to take the chance to allow their high-level experts to cultivate in peace to produce a new True Immortal as soon as possible.

That was exactly why the peak-tier Martial Dipper Realm experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake were in seclusion in the Heavenly Lake Elysium while the lower leveled cultivators were scattered all around the Secret Region outside. They wanted to funnel all their resources into the experts capable of breaking through!

That resulted in there being extremely few experts in the Heavenly Lake Elysium. Other than a few Martial Dipper Realm experts, Shang Xia didn't really feel any other presence around him as he made his way deeper into the Elysium.

Of course with the disturbance they caused, Shang Xia knew it would be impossible for the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake to remain indifferent. With his powerful divine will, he could feel many experts pouring into the Elysium and they caused significant spatial fluctuations.

Even though those who entered might not be peak-tier experts, the more people there were the greater their troubles. No one knew if there were hidden experts hiding in the Heavenly Lake Elysium either.

Shang Xia couldn't help but increase his speed once again in an attempt to reach the location indicated by the Crimson Soul Tablet as quickly as possible. He didn't bother concealing his presence as he rushed over.

There was no surprise that he was quickly discovered. It didn't take too long for 2 powerful auras to rush over to stand in his way.

"Who dares to barge into our territory?!" The people in front of Shang Xia seemed to be prepared. The moment Shang Xia entered a 20 mile range, they joined hands and struck first to try to gain the upper hand.

No one knew when, but the skies above the Heavenly Lake were filled with dark clouds. When Shang Xia entered its range, a powerful bolt of lightning tore through the skies and fell directly at him.

At the same time, a three colored dipper qi could be seen 10 miles away as it surrounded a Meteor Hammer that slammed directly at Shang Xia. It was so powerful that the winds around it had the ability to tear space apart. It charged at Shang Xia with the majesty of Mount Tai.

The lightning bolt was falling directly on him while the Meteor Hammer rushed at him from a different angle.

It seemed as though both third element Martial Dipper Realm experts from the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake had great coordination. Even if someone was an expert one small realm higher than them, they would suffer a massive loss when up against their combined attack!

It was a shame the person they ran into was Shang Xia, an expert at the grand completion stage of the Five Element Realm whose strength defied common sense!

Shang Xia was naturally unwilling to waste his time on the experts who appeared. Facing their combined attacks, he used the most direct and effective way to get rid of them!

For the first time, he didn't restrain his inner qi as he released it without restraint. The lightning falling from the skies was blown apart and so were the clouds that had gathered. The Meteor Hammer that had the ability to tear space apart smashed into Shang Xia's inner qi when it was 3000 feet away. A five colored wheel of light ground against the treasure and it didn't just tear apart the dipper qi surrounding it. The weapon itself suffered great damage!

By the time it reached 1000 feet or so away from Shang Xia, the weapon was ground to nothingness by Shang Xia's Five Element Annihilation Yin Yang Ring! It was as though it never existed in the first place!

Throughout the entire process, Shang Xia maintained his same flying speed, not letting them affect him in the slightest!

The experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake were terrified by what just happened and they hastily turned to escape.

Deciding that letting them live would prove to be extremely troublesome in the future, Shang Xia waved his hand in the direction they were running. His Five Element Dipper Qi appeared to transform into small needles before shooting their way.

When the needles arrived behind them, neither of them managed to discover a thing. The next second, their Dipper Qi Protection Barrier was punctured.

When did they ever experience something like that? They didn't even have time to unleash more ways to protect themselves and the only thing they could do was to hastily split off 2 Fate Dipper Clones in an attempt to sacrifice them to protect their true body.

Unfortunately, the moment their Fate Dipper Clones left their bodies, Shang Xia's Five Element Dipper Qi Needle also started to split. Illusory needles were formed and they eliminated the clones one after another. After they were done, they stabbed directly into the back of one of the escaping figures while the other was stabbed in the back of the head.



Shang Xia didn't slow down as a massive hand appeared in the void to grab the spoils of war and the Origin Dipper Fragments left behind.

The revelation of Shang Xia's true strength clearly shocked the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake. No one dared to approach as he charged all the way over to his destination.

When he finally arrived at the spot with concentrated world origin, he didn't detect any presence in his surroundings.

He was surprised, but he didn't dare to be careless. There might be some experts with special treasures that could allow them to hide from him and were hiding in a certain spot ready to sneak attack him the moment he let his guard down.

This time, he was truly acting too carefully. Even when he located the treasure, no one tried attacking him.

Looking at the coral-like treasure that somewhat resembled a false mountain, Shang Xia was certain what treasure he was staring at. He was looking at the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar of the Heavenly Lake Elysium!

Chapter 973: Five Element Origin, Refining the Pillar!

When Shang Xia located the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar, Huang Yu and Lou Yi also located the Origin Holy Artifact.

However, the core of the Heavenly Lake Elysium seemed to have already experienced some changes. From the looks of it, some people arrived before them and obtained the treasure that resembled a Stone Mortar.

"Sixth Brother, Senior Brother Shan, what's the meaning of this?" Lou Yi stared at the both of them calmly, but Huang Yu, who was beside him, could already feel the killing intent rising rolling off him.

"Third Brother, don't misunderstand, there's no hidden meaning behind this. I was just afraid that something might go wrong halfway and I ran here to get my hands on the Origin Holy Artifact before anything else. There are other experts in the Heavenly Lake Elysium planning to steal the treasures and I had no choice but to start refining it before you could come." Lou Zhe chuckled.

Lou Yi still sounded calm, but his voice grew colder with each passing word. "I believe you should know the Ancestor's intentions and what I need to do next."

The grin on Lou Zhe's face remained and he laughed out loud, "Third Brother, rest assured, I know what to do! All of us are brothers and the thing our Lou Family needs is another Martial Void Realm True Immortal! Can't you see that I'm trying my best for the sake of the family? If you need the Origin Holy Artifact to craft your advancement medicine, just say the word and I'll fully cooperate with you!"

Unable to control his killing intent any further, it came bursting out in an endless tide. Lou Yi growled, "Sixth Brother, are you really not willing to hand the Origin Holy Artifact over? What if I

swear an oath to give you the Origin Holy Artifact after I use it to refine my advancement medicine and successfully enter the Martial Void Realm?”

Lou Yi held the Stone Mortar that reached up to his waist and took 2 steps back. However, his tone remained firm as he continued, “Third Brother, do you really not trust me? The experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake are going to arrive soon. Even though they’re just a bunch of useless fools, even if I hand the treasure to you now and you use it to complete your advancement medicine, all of us will still be surrounded when you try to advance. When we’re surrounded, we won’t be able to use the power of the Elysium or world origin if you refined the Origin Holy Artifact. What if they manage to interrupt and cause you to fail your ascension? If I control the treasure, I will still be able to make use of the power of the Elysium and draw world origin to protect all of us even when you’re breaking through. It will greatly increase our chances of success.”

“Sixth Brother, are you threatening me right now?” Lou Yi’s expression sank and he said in a low voice.

Taking a deep breath, Lou Zhe started to circulate his inner qi and raised the Stone Mortar above his head while muttering, “Of course not, I wouldn’t dare! I’m just doing what’s best for all of us!”

Lou Yi’s countenance was as ugly as could be and he turned to Shan Yunchao and muttered, “Senior Brother Shan, what’s your stance on this?”

Shan Yunchao didn’t look at any one of them and he muttered indifferently, “This is a matter between you brothers. You should settle this among yourselves. However... To be truly objective, if Young Master Lou Zhe controls the Origin Holy Artifact, he will definitely be able to help all of us when you’re in the process of breaking through.”

Shan Yunchao sounded pretty objective and he seemed to be speaking on behalf of the big picture, but how could Lou Yi not understand that they were standing on the same side at the moment?

The only thing he didn’t know was the reason they had chosen to work together. After all, even if Lou Zhe controlled the Origin Holy Artifact, there was no way they could steal the chance of breaking through to the Martial Void Realm.

Once Lou Yi enters the Martial Void Realm, he would definitely get back at them.

Even if his ascension fails, the 2 of them didn’t have to oppose him in such a direct manner...

There were only a few possibilities. If they knew that his ascension would most likely fail and they weren’t afraid of offending him any longer, or if they were planning to interrupt his ascension and cause him to fail anyway!

If he thought about it, that didn’t make any sense either. After all, both of them understood what it meant for him to break through to the Martial Void Realm. Unless they were willing to risk everything and offend True Immortal Chong Shan...

Lou Yi couldn’t understand what they were up to and his thoughts fell into disarray for a moment. His expression was extremely gloomy as he glared at them both.

The next second, Lou Zhe put on a sincere expression and muttered, “Third Brother, don’t you think we understand what your breakthrough will mean for our Lou Family and the Emptiness Drifting

Mountain?! The only reason I'm planning to hold on to the Origin Holy Artifact is to give us a little more protection when you're breaking through!"

"You should know that the moment you break through, the family will cast me aside instantly! After all, our future would be secured with your ascension. If I wish to try breaking through to the Martial Void Realm in the future, I can only rely on my hard work and the opportunities I run into. With the Origin Holy Artifact in hand, it will be much easier for me to fight for the chance to take another step on the path of cultivation!" Lou Zhe muttered.

The next second, spatial fluctuations appeared in the distance as the entrance to the Heavenly Lake Elysium opened up again. A bunch of experts poured through the entrance.

"Young Master Lou Yi, if you don't enter the space in the Origin Holy Artifact, I'm afraid it will be too late..." Shan Yunchao mumbled.

"Hmph... I refuse to believe you guys have the guts to play any tricks either..." Lou Yi snorted before preparing to enter the Origin Holy Artifact.

"Young Master..." Huang Yu quickly stepped up and tried to warn Lou Yi.

Pausing for a second, Lou Yi mumbled without even turning back, "Brother Huang, take my place and provide some cover. Relax. Once I step into the Origin Holy Artifact, no one will be able to steal my advancement medicine!"

He spoke out loud and even though it seemed as though his words were directed at Huang Yu, it was actually warning Lou Zhe and Shan Yunchao not to try anything funny.

Lou Zhe proclaimed in a loud voice, "Third Brother, you can rest assured that with Brother Huang's help and our protection, those clowns from the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake won't be able to distract you!"

Lou Yi didn't seem too interested in entertaining Lou Zhe any longer and he leaped into the Origin Holy Artifact and entered the space it contained.

He had long since prepared all the ingredients he needed for his advancement medicine and all he needed to do was to combine them all in the Origin Holy Artifact before swallowing it.

Just from the preparation Lou Yi made, there was no way Lou Zhe would be able to steal his spot at ascension... Even if he had an elementary refinement of the Origin Holy Artifact, there was no chance at all!

Moreover, the most important thing was that Lou Zhe's cultivation realm was far from enough!

As for why Lou Yi was planning to break through using the Origin Holy Artifact of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake and not the treasure of the Emptiness Drifting Mountain... No matter if he succeeded, he would use up an astronomical amount of world origin. Moreover, from the rank six inheritance the Emptiness Drifting Mountain, an attempt at a breakthrough would cause huge damage to the Origin Holy Artifact.

True Immortal Chong Shan obviously knew about the price they would have to pay for ascension and that was why he had been plotting against the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake.

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Not too far away from the island in the Heavenly Lake Elysium, the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake also discovered the traitor who killed Lu Qinhuan and was attempting to refine the Elysium Boundary Marker.

After paying the price with the lives of many of their experts, the cultivators of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake started to push closer towards the island that Dai Yikong had taken control of. He was able to draw on the power of the Elysium, but the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake maintained their battle formation as they forced their way over.

At the same time, they formed 2 other squads that went to where the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar and Origin Holy Artifact were.

By the time they started to make their way over, Shang Xia had already completed the preliminary round of refinement of the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar and could control it to a certain extent. At the same time, he could feel the wondrous sensation of drawing power from the Elysium. Moreover, as he drew on the power of the Elysium, he discovered that he was able to refine the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar even further.

Shang Xia knew that even though Kou Chongxue reached the large completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm back then, he used several years in order to fully refine the Stellar Cauldron.

As such, he wasn't too surprised when he realized that he was able to further refine the treasure. What he didn't know was how difficult it was for ordinary Martial Dipper Realm experts to control a Holy Artifact!

While he continued to refine the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar, he felt several experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake observing him secretly. However, his show of dominance seemed to have done its job when he killed the 2 third element Martial Dipper Realm experts earlier. Even though they observed him secretly, they didn't dare to interrupt him when he was refining the treasure. They chose to distance themselves from him in case he went on a rampage and targeted them randomly.

Of course, he understood that they wouldn't avoid him forever. The moment their reinforcements arrived, they would choose to attack. Even if their backup consisted mostly of Martial Extermination Realm cultivators, everyone knew that there was courage in numbers. They might choose to attack anyway.

However... With a single thought, several powerful vortexes of Five Element Dipper Qi appeared in the space tens of miles around him. A massive amount of world origin was swallowed by those vortexes before being transported to where he was. In an instant, the region around him was covered in a dense cloud of world origin.

That was one of the perks of being able to control the power of an Elysium after refining one of its Holy Artifacts!

With Shang Xia's current process and extent of control over the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar, he would be able to draw on the power of the Elysium 20 miles around himself. He was the ruler of that region of space!

As he continued to refine the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar, he discovered something surprising. As his Five Element Origin continued to pour into the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar, its appearance experienced some form of transformation.

Shang Xia wasn't quite bothered by the change. After all, as a Holy Artifact, it ranked higher than a Divine Artifact. A slight change in appearance wasn't anything to be alarmed about.

However, the treasure that resembled a coral or false mountain started to shrink to the point where it became a long stone rod... Shang Xia didn't know how to feel about the matter.

If not for the fact that Shang Xia could feel that the long rod was made of a material similar to that of Nayuan Spirit Nourishing Stones, he might have suspected that the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar in his hand was a fake!

Actually... If the rod could shrink even more and grow a little shorter... Wouldn't he be able to swing the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar around as a weapon?!

Chapter 974: True Immortals!

When the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar shrank and became a long stone rod, Shang Xia suddenly had a premonition that the more he infused his Five Element Origin into the weapon, the thinner it would become. It might even transform into a staff that he could swing around like a weapon!

The more he thought about it, the stranger the entire situation felt.

What the fuck! Is the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake the Ruyi Jingu Bang used by Sun Wukong?! Didn't he get it from the bottom of the ocean from the Dragon King of the East Sea?!

Oh, wait a second... The Heavenly Lake might not be the East Sea, but this place is still considered underwater...

Shang Xia shook his head to get rid of his useless thoughts as he continued to refine the treasure.

The Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness didn't stop devouring world origin in his surroundings either.

Everyone in the Heavenly Lake Elysium wasn't paying attention to the world origin in their surroundings as there was too much going on. Otherwise, they would have discovered that the density of world origin was falling at a terrifying pace. The world origin that surrounded the 3 Holy Artifacts was also draining rapidly.

The strain he caused to the Crimson Soul Tablet when he came up with his rank five martial intent had long since been restored. The tablet had also recovered to a certain extent. With the strong connection he had with the Crimson Soul Tablet, he could tell that its curiosity for the world origin of the Spirit Abundance World had disappeared some time ago. If not for him actively controlling it to absorb world origin, it would have stopped long ago.

Shang Xia wasn't forcing it to absorb more world origin for fun. Instead, he was preparing for the future. He didn't forget how one of the conditions of his rank six advancement formula consisted of sufficient world origin!

...

The Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake could seal itself off because of the presence of the Heavenly Lake Elysium where they were drawing their energy to power their grand formation, and the Heavenly Lake Elysium's foundation was made up of the 3 great Holy Artifacts!

With the Holy Artifacts falling into different hands, the usage of the power of the Elysium was no longer coordinated! As it grew weaker and weaker, the Heavenly Lake Elysium also started to suffer. The world origin that Shang Xia was absorbing on a large scale made it even worse and the grand formation around the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake was weakening with each passing second!

For experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake, they didn't have the luxury to pay attention to such matters. Moreover, most of them didn't have the qualification to come into contact with the Elysium or the protection formation to notice the change.

Fortunately, even experts who have been paying attention to the Five Links Ridge couldn't discover what was happening easily... Unless someone tried forcing their way into the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake at the moment, or if a True Immortal paid attention to the matter personally, they wouldn't discover the changes happening within!

...

"I didn't think that those little rats from the Emptiness Drifting Mountain not only forced their way into the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake, they even managed to make it into the Heavenly Lake Elysium. They even caused the grand formation to weaken to this point. Looks like your younger sister here has underestimated them and True Immortal Chong Shan's methods!" A soft sigh came from the void somewhere inside the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake.

A gentle female voice replied, "Do not underestimate any True Immortal, especially one that comes from a background with extensive history. Who would have thought that the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake would suffer such a huge loss to several Martial Dipper Realm juniors even after sealing off their sect?"

The person who spoke earlier chuckled in response, "That only proves how far True Immortal Chong Shan planned it. His schemes started dozens of years ago and placed a spy in the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake many years ago. Well... Whatever it is, that's almost the extent of whatever he could do. Didn't Senior Sister Su uncover them a long time ago? No matter what, you're still better than him."

'Senior Sister Su' sighed softly, "Junior Sister Tang Yu, since you have already entered the Martial Void Realm, that would mean that you have gained the qualifications to become a true player in our Spirit Abundance World. Even so, you can't judge someone just by a single instance of defeat or victory. Any plan that an expert at our level can come up with will be full of tricks and deceit. Everyone is planning ahead.

What can a single victory mean in the larger scheme of things? For example, True Immortal Chong Shan seems to have made many preparations for this while paying a huge price. However, can you be sure of his intentions? Do you really think it's just to produce another True Immortal among his descendants?"

True Immortal Tang Yu muttered in a strong tone, "Is that not the case? Senior Sister Su, didn't you say that True Immortal Chong Shang is reaching the end of his lifespan? He plans to create another True Immortal for his faction without weakening the foundations of the Emptiness Drifting Mountain to protect the Lou Family... Moreover, that will greatly benefit the Emptiness Drifting Mountain while they're at it!"

Instead of responding immediately, True Immortal Su thought for a second before muttering, "Let's wait and see... I'm afraid it won't be long before we will need you to personally make a trip over."

A trace of excitement seemed to form in True Immortal Tang Yu's heart as she became a lot more interested after hearing that she might be able to get involved in the matter. "Senior Sister, didn't you say that you were better than True Immortal Chong Shan and wanted to be the fisherman who swoops in at the last moment to grab all the benefits? Who would have thought that you would also have your spy among them who hid even deeper?! Looks like when I head over to the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake, I will need to clean house from top to bottom... I hope you won't mind my recklessness... Hehe..."

True Immortal Su maintained her gentle deposition and muttered, "The position of the 9 great powers of the Spirit Abundance World cannot change. I would rather you take charge of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake and fill up the space of the missing True Immortal than to let them be wiped off the map completely. In the future, you can deal with all matters regarding the faction!"

The excitement True Immortal Tang Yu was feeling fizzled out slightly and a trace of anxiety started to form in her heart.

True Immortal Su from the Heaven Embroidery Palace raised an eyebrow and muttered, "From what we know, the world origin stored in the Heavenly Lake Elysium should be more than enough for the junior from the Lou Family to make the breakthrough. Even if the birth of a True Immortal will affect the World Origin Source of the world, it shouldn't be so intense... Did something strange happen within?"

True Immortal Tang Yu stared at the Heavenly Lake Elysium as she slowly calmed herself. "Senior Sister Su, did you discover something strange?"

True Immortal Su didn't respond and she seemed to have fallen deep in thought.

The World Origin Source trembled violently the next second. True Immortal Tang Yu muttered, "I didn't think that the junior of the Lou Family would possess such strong foundations! From the looks of it, if we don't hurry up and interfere, he will most likely be able to complete the advancement process!"

True Immortal Su nodded in response. "He should be at one of the Holy Artifacts of the Elysium. We can't wait any longer. Junior Sister Tang Yu, please head over and stop it before it's too late. If you feel anything off, you can retreat at any time. I will be ready to assist you."

“Hehe... Many thanks, Senior Sister Su!” True Immortal Tang Yu giggled. After she spoke, the space around her started to turn gloomy as all the light around her was swallowed up by something. The entrance to the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake that was protected by a powerful grand formation was revealed to the rest of the Heavenly Lake as a giant mirage filled the skies. However, it was quickly shrouded into the void again.

However, its reappearance for a split second already alerted the various powers who had their eyes on the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake. No one knew how many secret transmissions were sent out in that instant.

However, with at least 2 True Immortals present in the Heavenly Lake Continent, it would be difficult to say if the other powers would make it in time to interfere with whatever was happening there.

...

In the Heavenly Lake Elysium... Lou Zhe, Huang Yu, and Shan Yunchao faced the battle formation of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake made up of dozens of experts in the Martial Extermination Realm realm and above as their backs were on the Origin Holy Artifact. They felt their scalp going numb in the face of so many experts. They were at a loss for what to do for a second.

Even though the True Immortal of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake was slain along with a batch of their strongest Martial Dipper Realm experts, those left weren't exactly useless. As the remaining Martial Dipper Realm experts gathered the rest of their strength, they could bring out a good portion of battle strength.

Huang Yu held his spear in front of him as he faced several opponents. As he swung his spear while moving with his special footwork, he managed to avoid being thrown into their battle formation. Shan Yunchao and Lou Zhe were experts at the fourth element of the Martial Dipper Realm and they could hold their own. However, as the number of experts increased, the battlefield shrank rapidly and they were unable to unleash their full advantage.

Every time Shan Yunchao made his move, a powerful gale would arrive and it had the ability to flip the heavens over. He tossed out 2 rank five talismans at the perfect time and managed to catch his opponents off guard as he tried to tear their battle formation open. Unfortunately, his talismans were nullified with the help of the grand formation. None of the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake messed up their battle formation and tried to rush their targets. Neither did any cower and stay behind.

At that moment, the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake were of one mind. They displayed the might of an Elysium that was one of the 9 great powers of the Spirit Abundance World!

Shan Yunchao was forced to retreat again and again, and he depleted a good portion of his inner qi earlier when trying to break out of the battle formation. When he landed, his legs wobbled slightly.

“We can't keep this up. Senior Brother Shan, if we really can't hold them off any longer...” Lou Yi, whose attention was mostly focused on Lou Zhe, could still tell what was happening outside. He wanted to say something to Shan Yunchao and Huang Yu,



but he felt a sudden disturbance in the world origin he was absorbing through the Origin Holy Artifact.

Lou Zhe reacted as well, and so did the other 2 beside him. They stared in a certain direction in the distance.

The next moment, the void above the Heavenly Lake Elysium was torn open. A sorry figure who was hugging a massive stone tablet fell from the skies and landed close to them.

Chapter 975: Jade Finger and Cloud Robes

“You... You’re our guy?!” Lou Zhe stared at the person who was leaning against the stone tablet while stopping Shan Yunchao and Huang Yu who were about to attack.

The person seemed completely drained and he gasped for breath while explaining, “You can call me Dai Yikong and I was sent by True Immortal Chong Shan to remain in the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake 40 years ago to prepare for this day...”

After he spoke, he glanced at the 3 of them and his gaze landed on Huang Yu. “Among the 3 of you, one of you definitely arrived in the vicinity of the island...”

Huang Yu nodded towards Lou Zhe who was staring at him and explained, “Young Master Lou was the one who spoke to him earlier. I heard his voice but I didn’t see his appearance.”

Lou Zhe nodded slightly before turning to look at Dai Yikong with a strange gaze. “This is the Elysium Boundary Marker! For you to bring it all the way out here... Have you fully refined it?”

Dai Yikong still seemed to possess some lingering fear in his heart and he shook his head while sighing, “I was only able to move it from its spot after using all my might. I was unable to bring it out of the Elysium... Unless I fully refine its spirituality and get it to acknowledge me as its owner, I won’t be able to!”

Huang Yu sneered after hearing what he said, “In other words, I’m afraid you wouldn’t come and meet us if you managed to refine it. You would have sneaked away from the Secret Region without us, right?”

“Of course not. I am merely acting on True Immortal Chong Shan’s orders. I have to return to the Emptiness Drifting Mountain after this. Our Spirit Abundance World might be big, but there won’t be anywhere for me to go...”

Clearly, Dai Yikong was unable to remain on the island under the strong assault by the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake. He was unwilling to give up the Elysium Boundary Marker and could only attempt to regroup with Lou Yi and the others.

Huang Yu wanted to continue mocking the man, but Lou Zhe interrupted him. “Sigh... We need to be united to face our enemies. The most important thing right now is to buy enough time for my Third Brother to enter the Martial Void Realm. Fortunately you brought the Elysium Boundary Market over to meet with us. Not only do we have another powerful expert on our side, we should be able to draw on another portion of the power of the Elysium.”

“Let’s hope that’s the case. Young Master Lou Zhe, you best not forget that the experts in charge of attacking the island will arrive soon...” Huang Yu mumbled.

Everyone's expression changed slightly, but in the end, Lou Zhe sighed, "Whatever it is, it's good that we managed to buy some time. Otherwise..." He didn't continue.

However, Huang Yu understood that the alternative would be to ask the Martial Void Realm expert backing either Lou Zhe or Shan Yunchao. He knew that they possessed special treasures from their backers and was merely unwilling to reveal it unless they were no longer able to hold on.

The most important part about their trump cards would be the fact that even if those experts descended, they might not protect him. At the end of the day, he was merely Lou Yi's subordinate. His identity couldn't compare to either of them! In fact, he wasn't even comparable to Dai Yikong now that he refined the Elysium Boundary Marker!

If the time truly came... Huang Yu was certain he would be the one to be abandoned.

As he thought about it, he slowed his footwork as he felt the rank five Teleportation Talisman he had been keeping near his chest. According to the confident Shang Xia, he wouldn't just be transported out of the Elysium. He would be able to appear directly in the sea of stars outside the heavenly screen of the Spirit Abundance World!

With Dai Yikong's participation along with the Elysium Boundary Marker, they could deploy a portion of the power of the Elysium. They quickly stopped the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake. They were even able to launch a counterattack and disrupt their battle formation. However, the appearance of Dai Yikong and the Elysium Boundary Marker seemed to have stimulated the bloodlust of the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake even further.

Using the deaths of 6 experts and dozens more suffering injuries, the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake forced their way towards the 4. With close to 30 Martial Extermination Realm experts led by 5 ordinary Martial Dipper Realm experts, they trapped the Martial Dipper Realm experts of the Emptiness Drifting Mountain, whose cultivation was at the third element of the Martial Dipper Realm and above, in place.

As the battle progressed, the experts who attacked the island where Dai Yikong was earlier also made their way over.

The more Shan Yunchao, Huang Yu, Dai Yikong, and Lou Zhe fought, the more exhausted they became. They seemed to be getting close to their limit.

Lou Zhe might have refined the Origin Holy Artifact to a certain extent and was able to replenish his energy, but Lou Yi was absorbing a large amount of world origin within the artifact to break through. As such, he wasn't able to recover as quickly as possible.

With Lou Zhe glancing at Shan Yunchao and the rest, a majestic aura emerged from the Origin Holy Artifact. The aura was so powerful that it caused the hearts of those around to palpitate with fear.

In an instant, the battle intent and bloodlust the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake felt dissipated greatly. It was as though a bucket of cold water was thrown over their heads.

If Lou Zhe and the rest tried anything, the dozens of experts from the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake wouldn't have been able to react in time! Unfortunately, they were caught off-guard by the sudden emergence of the majestic aura. It seemed to possess the desire to devour everything in its path and it caused the group to nearly suffer internal injuries when it burst out suddenly. They couldn't even think of counterattacking or breaking out of the encirclement with its appearance.

Did Lou Yi already succeed in his breakthrough?!

No... That doesn't seem right. That seems like the final transition as he tries to complete the transformation to a Void Origin... he would be able to form a connection with the world and use his Void Origin to draw on the power of the world!

He hadn't fully completed the ascension, but there was no doubt about it. His Dipper Origin was already starting to transform and the most crucial time for his breakthrough had come!

Lou Zhe and Shan Yunchao were experts who had access to the rank six inheritance of the Emptiness Drifting Mountain. They might not know the exact method to enter the Martial Void Realm yet and the level of intricacies it contains, but they had a rough understanding. They quickly determined the state Lou Yi had reached.

What they didn't expect was that Lou Yi would be able to get so far with his foundations. From the looks of it, if everything went smoothly, he would have a 70 percent chance to step into the Martial Void Realm!

If that really happened...

After Lou Zhe refined the Origin Holy Artifact, he didn't let go of it. Even when they were facing their enemies and were placed in dangerous situations several times, he never moved his hand!

If he chose to make his move at that point in time... Lou Zhe's state of mind was in chaos. However, he forced himself to remain calm.

True Immortal Chong Shan might be their Ancestor and was an expert in the Martial Void Realm, his lifespan was reaching an end!

If Lou Yi managed to successfully enter the Martial Void Realm, the Lou Family would be able to continue their legacy and flourish in the Emptiness Drifting Mountain!

If he failed... It didn't seem as though anyone would benefit!

The ingredients and resources required to craft a portion of rank six advancement formula weren't so easily gathered. The medicine in Lou Yi's hand practically used up half the Lou Family's accumulations! Moreover, he needed strong support from True Immortal Chong Shan to obtain all the resources required.

It wasn't quite possible for True Immortal Chong Shan to obtain another batch of resources to craft a rank six advancement medicine. Moreover, even if they really gathered enough to craft another portion of rank six advancement medicine, it wouldn't be given to Lou Zhe!

Lou Zhe's cultivation was at the fourth element of the Martial Dipper Realm at the end of the day. He hadn't even reached the large completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm and he didn't have the qualifications to attempt a breakthrough!

One had to say that Lou Zhe was a very logical person. He analyzed everything in just a short while and quickly made his decision. He decided to fully support Lou Yi in his advancement. No matter what, he wouldn't suffer a loss as long as Lou Yi successfully stepped into the Martial Void Realm. It didn't matter if he was doing it for the bigger picture or for himself!

The only concern he had was the hidden trump cards Shan Yunchao prepared!

Even though both of them joining hands was something True Immortal Chong Shan instructed, Lou Zhe only received the order from True Immortal Chong Shan through Shan Yunchao. He had a sneaking suspicion that there was something Shan Yunchao had hidden from him.

Was it really possible for Shan Yunchao to betray the Ancestor and offend the Lou Family?

Lou Zhe sighed and denied the possibility the best he could. The moment Shan Yunchao betrayed them, there would be no place left for him in the Spirit Abundance World! Moreover, even if Shan Yunchao wanted to make a move, Lou Zhe's cultivation was nothing to scoff at. It was possible for him to hold back an expert of the same level!

Whatever it was, Lou Zhe decided to send a secret voice transmission to Huang Yu. After all, in his eyes, Huang Yu was Lou Yi's trusted subordinate.

After receiving the warning, Huang Yu was surprised. However, his expression started to flicker with uncertainty as the situation in front of him was changing rapidly. No... That wasn't all. The Heavenly Lake Elysium was experiencing a radical change!

Along with powerful spatial fluctuations, the spatial barrier around the Heavenly Lake Elysium was torn apart forcefully from the outside.

Heavy mist poured in from the gap into the Heavenly Lake Elysium and a hidden figure seemed to squeeze through the gap that was created to step into the Heavenly Lake Elysium.

The next instant, a powerful pressure that contained unstoppable might descended on everyone in the Elysium. Anyone who was in the Martial Extermination Realm or weaker fainted immediately.

A soft chuckle rang through the Elysium the very next moment. "As of right now, I, True Immortal Tang Yu, will be taking over the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake!"

The lustrous mist pressed closer rapidly and it crossed hundreds of miles in an instant to appear above the experts of the Emptiness Drifting Mountain. The phantom of a female cultivator's head appeared in the mist and stared at everyone down below. Her voice rang clearly in their minds, "Junior of the Emptiness Drifting Mountain, you seem pretty lucky. You were able to start the transformation to your Void Origin. If you attempted the breakthrough in your own faction, the Emptiness Drifting Mountain might have produced another True Immortal! It's a shame the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake belongs to me and I won't allow you to steal my world origin. I have no choice but to stop you. Hehe..."

Amidst her laughter, the head that was created by the mist started to disappear. A finger that shone with the luster of jade and was enveloped in a lush green light appeared in its place and came pressing down with immeasurable might!

The aura released by Lou Yi during his Void Origin transformation was quickly suppressed, but an aged sigh quickly rang through the Heavenly Lake Elysium.

"This old man wasn't planning on interfering with the True Immortals of the Heaven Embroidery Palace. However, I hope True Immortal Tang Yu can show mercy." Dense clouds started to form above the experts of the Emptiness Drifting Mountain and even though several layers were broken by the finger, the remaining clouds slowly

wrapped itself around and stopped the finger when it was several hundred feet in the air.

#### Chapter 976: Refining the Holy Artifact

On the other side of the Heavenly Lake Elysium before True Immortal Tang Yu's arrival

...

Shang Xia knew that a Divine Artifact had its own spirit as he used to own it. He knew how important it was for the Artifact Spirit to recognize him in order for him to raise his own combat abilities.

A Holy Artifact was one grade higher than a Divine Artifact!

Shang Xia understood that like a Divine Artifact, Holy Artifacts also had a spirit. Moreover, the Artifact Spirit already developed sentience. One would be able to communicate with their Holy Artifact to a certain extent.

If one wanted to properly control a Divine Artifact, all they needed to do was to refine it with their inner qi as that would slowly raise the compatibility with the treasure.

However, to properly control a Holy Artifact was a different story altogether. Other than refining it with one's inner qi, they needed to gain the approval of the Holy Artifact Spirit. In other terms, that was called getting the Holy Artifact to 'recognize its owner'.

In Shang Xia's eyes, both artifacts didn't seem too different. A Holy Artifact was just a slightly more advanced Divine Weapon to him. No matter what type of artifact it was, forcefully refining it would only damage the Artifact Spirit and cause the artifact to grow weaker. The gains wouldn't make up for the losses.

As such, Kou Chongxue once warned Shang Xia that if he ever got his hands on a Holy Artifact, he couldn't act recklessly. He had to try his best to communicate with the Holy Artifact Spirit.

There was also no need to mention the fact that he hadn't entered the Martial Void Realm and couldn't threaten the Holy Artifact Spirit with his Void Origin. The most important thing would be to communicate with the spirit to allow it to understand that it could be nourished to grow even stronger!

Shang Xia naturally took his advice to heart. As he tried to refine the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar, his divine will attempted to communicate with the Holy Artifact Spirit.

It didn't seem as though the Holy Artifact Spirit was interested in Shang Xia, or it might just be disgusted that Shang Xia was an outsider who was trying to steal the Holy Artifact from the Heavenly Lake Elysium. It hid deep inside the treasure and refused to come into contact with Shang Xia's divine will at all! No matter how hard Shang Xia tried, he failed to communicate with the Holy Artifact Spirit.

Without its recognition, he would be unable to refine it quickly! Also, he would be able to utilize its true power if the Holy Artifact Spirit wouldn't recognize him as its owner!

All of a sudden, Shang Xia felt movement coming from the island in the middle of the Heavenly Lake Elysium. From the fluctuations in the air, he could tell that the person holding the treasure was trying to tear open space to leave his position.

It seemed as though the person on the island couldn't hold on any longer and had to group up with Lou Yi and the rest.

Shang Xia understood what happened after observing the situation for a short while. At the same time, he also understood that the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake might head over to where he was to try to retrieve the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar.

Unlike Lou Zhe, Huang Yu, Shan Yunchao, and Dai Yikong, Shang Xia wasn't feeling much pressure.

Other than the fact that he was at the grand completion stage of the Five Element Realm and had combat abilities far surpassing cultivators of the same level, the most important reason he was devouring world origin at a terrifying speed with the help of the Crimson Soul Tablet! The area around him was void of world origin and the moment the experts of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake entered that region, they felt a state of weakness.

They might have gotten weaker, but Shang Xia's combat capabilities weren't affected! With his increasing refinement of the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar, he was able to draw more power from the Elysium and grow even stronger!

His Five Element Origin was also slightly strange. It resonated with the world and expanded its influence to the region void of world origin around him. It weakened experts within the area even further, and before they could even get to him, they would retreat in fear.

As such, Shang Xia was able to remain at an advantage despite facing multiple enemies.

Of course, it wasn't as though Shang Xia would be able to hold off an infinite number of enemies. As the number of experts increased, he was getting close to his limit. A good portion of his attention was placed on the Crimson Soul Tablet while also refining the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar.

The next second, the Heavenly Lake Elysium experienced a massive change!

A powerful aura descended and practically froze the space in the Elysium. The power of the Elysium was also suppressed and as the aura expanded, almost everyone within the Elysium seemed to succumb to its strength.

Shang Xia wasn't a part of them and even under the terrifying pressure, his divine will stood firm. The Five Element Origin in his dantian fought against the powerful aura and even showed signs of pushing it back.

Despite having the feeling that he would be able to shake off the suppression of the powerful aura anytime he wanted to, Shang Xia forced himself back. He knew that it wasn't time to reveal his true strength.

Martial Void Realm... Did Lou Yi already enter the Martial Void Realm?

Shang Xia guessed, but he quickly realized that it might not be the case. It wasn't the first time he came into contact with Martial Void Realm experts and he was no stranger to their aura. Even though the aura that appeared in the Elysium might seem powerful, it was far from the aura of a True Immortal!

Shang Xia deduced that it was probably the transition between the Martial Dipper Realm to the Martial Void Realm!

As he thought to himself, he realized that if things kept up, Lou Yi would most likely be able to complete the transformation and enter the Martial Void Realm for real!

He couldn't help but panic slightly upon the discovery. The moment Lou Yi entered the Martial Void Realm, he would most probably be able to control the Heavenly Lake Elysium.

When that happened, Shang Xia would most likely be able to escape unscathed, but he wouldn't be able to obtain further benefits.

Without mentioning anything else, at the very least, he wouldn't be able to take away the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar without being noticed by a True Immortal.

As he continued to refine the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar, he discovered that it seemed to be transforming even further!

Shang Xia was sure that when he obtained the treasure, the Holy Artifact Spirit was hiding deep inside and refused to communicate with him. He didn't expect it to emerge from its hiding spot to interact with him on its own accord!

He was bewildered by the turn of events. However, he didn't hesitate as he established an initial connection with the Holy Artifact Spirit. As soon as he did, he understood why it wasn't willing to interact with him before.

"The corrosive ability of your inner qi is too powerful! For you to refine the treasure so quickly, I felt threatened and thought you were trying to wipe me out of existence!" The Holy Artifact Spirit's voice rang in Shang Xia's mind. He didn't know whether to laugh or cry at the discovery.

"Why are you showing yourself now?" Shang Xia replied.

"That's because an even greater danger is about to arrive..." The Holy Artifact Spirit said.

Shang Xia felt that the artifact was most likely because it felt Lou Yi's ascension and was feeling threatened. He could tell that with Lou Yi's aggressive absorption of world origin and the power of the Elysium, great damage was caused to both the Origin Holy Artifact and the Heavenly Lake Elysium.

If Shang Xia's Five Element Origin gave the Holy Artifact Spirit of the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar a sense of threat, Lou Yi's ascension didn't just threaten the Origin Holy Artifact he was using. He was actually damaging it!

"Moreover... You don't seem like that guy..." The Holy Artifact Spirit of the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar said again. On one hand, Shang Xia hadn't broken through to the Martial Void Realm. Lou Yi was about to complete the ascension and the spirit was far less afraid of Shang Xia than Lou Yi.

It seemed as though he was the lesser of the two evils.

Shang Xia shook his head helplessly as his divine will continued to communicate with the Holy Artifact Spirit. “I hadn’t even completed too much of the refinement... Why did you think I would hurt you?”

After he spoke, his Five Element Origin sank into the treasure again. This time, the Holy Artifact Spirit didn’t resist. It finally merged with Shang Xia’s Five Element Origin and with its help, he managed to further refine the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar.

As his control over the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar reached a certain level, he understood how he would be able to use it and its abilities. He could clearly feel the connection between the Heavenly Lake Elysium and the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar.

“Looks like if I bring this out, the Heavenly Lake Elysium will actually collapse...”

Shang Xia mumbled to himself.

In fact, anyone who first heard of the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar would understand its uses for an Elysium. However, only when one refined it would they truly know its importance.

At that moment, even though Shang Xia refined the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar to a certain degree, it was still difficult for him to use it.

When he was thinking about how he should utilize the treasure, another change happened...

The spatial barrier around the Heavenly Lake Elysium was torn and a lustrous mist poured into the Elysium. A powerful divine soul swept through the region.

That was a True Immortal alright! There was actually another Martial Void Realm expert who entered the scene before Lou Yi could complete his transformation!

Shang Xia felt a chill down to his bones as the situation spiraled out of control. He was also sure that the moment the True Immortal arrived, everything he was doing was discovered.

However, the first thing the other side did wasn’t to act against him even though he refined the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar. Instead, the True Immortal’s attention turned to Lou Yi who was about to break through!

Of course, there might be another reason the True Immortal paid more attention to Lou Yi than himself. That was because, with their presence, everything was under control. They might feel that Shang Xia wouldn’t be able to do anything or threaten their interest even if he refined the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar.

#### Chapter 977: Devouring

In the Heavenly Lake Elysium, True Immortal Tang Yu forced her way in and tried to interrupt Lou Yi’s ascension the moment she arrived.

The might of a True Immortal was enough to suppress everything and there was no one in the Elysium who could contend against her at the moment. She felt that as soon as she acted, Lou Yi’s ascension process would go up in smoke.

Who would have thought that a tired and aged sigh would ring through the skies the next second as dense clouds appeared to form some sort of Cloud Robes. True Immortal Tang Yu’s attempt to stop Lou Yi from breaking through was intercepted.



“Hmm?” A surprised cry came from the skies above the Elysium. Even though she was surprised, True Immortal Tang Yu wasn’t affected by the sudden change. “I didn’t think that True Immortal Chong Shan would actually risk it all and enter an Elysium like this. Moreover, I never expected you to dare to show yourself in front of me.”

When the finger was pressing down earlier, Huang Yu nearly activated his rank five Teleportation Talisman. However, when he saw the Cloud Robes appearing to stop True Immortal Tang Yu, he understood that True Immortal Chong Shan’s preparation came into play. Heaving a sigh of relief, he stared at Lou Zhe and Dai Yikong with a trace of lingering fear. However, he discovered them staring behind him with a look of shock.

Huang Yu felt his heart turning cold. Slowly turning his head, he looked at where Shan Yunchao was. However, ‘Senior Brother Yuan’ was nowhere to be seen! In his place was an old man who had a head full of white hair. His beard was also snow-white in color. There were spots all over his skin like how an old man would and there was no doubt about it. The expert who appeared was getting on in age.

“Is that... Is that True Immortal Chong Shan?!” Huang Yu was quite sure of the old man’s identity. However, the true question was... Where did Shan Yunchao go?!

There was no way True Immortal Chong Shan disguised himself as Shang Yunchao to follow them on their expedition. It was easy to change his facial features, but the unique aura of a cultivator wasn’t so easily replicated. One’s martial dao was unique to themselves, not to mention the fact that the vitality Shan Yunchao exuded was something True Immortal Chong Shan would never be able to pull off.

However, he soon noticed that he wasn’t the only one who was surprised. Lou Zhe and Dai Yikong were similarly shocked to discover True Immortal Chong Shan before them. It was clear how big their shock was!

Only then did True Immortal Chong Shan sigh powerlessly, “I had no choice... At the end of the day, trying to ensure our rank six inheritance remains unbroken is an extremely difficult task. Since the new True Immortal of our Emptiness Drifting Mountain is about to appear and also taking into account that he’s part of my bloodline, there’s no way I can sit by and watch without interfering!”

In the skies above the Heavenly Lake Elysium, the lustrous mist started to swarm over to the experts of the Emptiness Drifting Mountain. The figure hidden within became even more blurry as she closed the gap.

True Immortal Tang Yu’s crisp voice rang through the skies. “It’s a shame I’ve already set my sights on the Heavenly Lake Elysium. There’s no way I will allow you to do as you wish as his breakthrough will greatly exhaust the world origin and foundations of the Elysium. The Origin Holy Artifact will be greatly damaged as well... Moreover, you will anger the World’s Will by drawing so much energy from the Elysium to ascend!”

True Immortal Chong Shan’s aged voice appeared again. “The Heavenly Lake Elysium never belonged to you, True Immortal Tang Yu. Are we truly out of options? Is there no room for negotiation?”

“I wouldn’t mind a battle against you! I believe you understand that I can call over another expert to help me anytime I wish! Your true body isn’t here either and there’s no way you’re my opponent. Even if you start rushing over now, you won’t make it!” True Immortal Tang Yu declared resolutely.

True Immortal Chong Shan nodded slowly in acknowledgment. “I know that True Immortal Su Kun is right outside the Five Links Ridge. Moreover, she should have already detected my presence. True Immortal Tang Yu, are you really not willing to let go of this matter?”

“True Immortal Chong Shan, you of all people should know what an Elysium means to me. For you to waste so much time talking to me... Are you buying time for your junior’s ascension?”

Along with the exchange between 2 True Immortals, the Heavenly Lake Elysium faced pressure like never before. Mighty auras crashed into each other as undercurrents filled the Heavenly Lake. Powerful waves rose into the air and smashed against each other as loud crashes could be heard from time to time.

The lustrous mist that filled the Heavenly Lake Elysium became even more dense as True Immortal Tang Yu’s true body entered. Powerful fluctuations filled the region as the Elysium had to withstand her full presence.

“Old Man, since you’re not willing to give it up, I’m forced to offend you!” True Immortal Tang Yu muttered as the air in the Heavenly Lake Elysium changed again. It was as though the entire region turned into her territory.

“Hold it!” Seeing as the battle was unavoidable, True Immortal Chong Shan chose to compromise. “We can stop the process of ascension, but I must bring him away!”

“Impossible!” True Immortal Tang Yu remained resolute and rejected the proposal without even thinking about it. She sneered, “Old man, do you really think I’ll leave a hidden threat like him alive so that he can take revenge in the future?”

A soft sigh escaped True Immortal Chong Shan’s lips. “Looks like True Immortal Tang Yu not only doesn’t want my junior to leave. You plan to keep my projection here too, right?”

True Immortal Tang Yu didn’t deny it. Instead, a cold snort left her lips, “Old man, from the day you plotted against the Heavenly Lake Elysium, we have already been at odds with each other. Your Emptiness Drifting Mountain has strong foundations. For me to take over the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake now, of course I won’t be a match for you guys. Since you came all the way over here to give up a portion of your fighting strength, I won’t miss the chance!”

“Looks like True Immortal Su Kun truly found a good helper... The only question is... Will your Heaven Embroidery Palace smash your own foot with all your schemes?” True Immortal Chong Shan praised. His tone changed the next moment. “My projection might not be your opponent, but if I choose to go all out and give up this projection, I’ll still be able to destroy this Elysium.”

The lustrous mist in the air started to gather into a ball as True Immortal Tang Yu's cold voice rang word for word. Every word that came out her mouth caused the temperature in the surroundings to fall slightly. "Old man, are you threatening me?"

True Immortal Chong Shan's expression didn't even change. "I'm just speaking the truth. Who would have thought that of the 3 Holy Artifacts of the Elysium, 2 of them are right in front of me!"

As he spoke, he smiled and made a slight gesture at Dai Yikong and Lou Zhe. It was a clear indication that they should hand him the Elysium Boundary Marker and Origin Holy Artifact.

Under such circumstances, the lives of Lou Zhe, Dai Yikong, Huang Yu, Lou Yi who was still breaking through, Shan Yunchao whose fate was unknown at the moment, and every other cultivator in the Heavenly Lake Elysium were under the control of the 2 Martial Void Realm experts who arrived.

Even though True Immortal Chong Shan seemed to have gained the upper hand in their first exchange, it was because True Immortal Tang Yu had many concerns and had to control the extent of the damage they would cause.

No matter how unwilling she was at that point, she had no choice but to take a step back. "Alright, you can leave. You can even bring the rest of your disciples away, but the one breaking through has to die. I'll refine him in the Origin Holy Artifact to restore the world origin and power of the Elysium he absorbed!"

True Immortal Chong Shan's expression darkened and he roared with rage, "True Immortal Tang Yu, are you really going to eliminate the last hope of my Lou Family?"

A sneer remained on Tang Yu's face as she remained in the ball of lustrous mist in mid air.

Eventually, a soft sigh escaped True Immortal Chong Shan's lips. "Since you aren't willing to let my grandson go... Rather than dying in your hands, why don't I send him on his way?"

As soon as the words left his lips, True Immortal Chong Shan's projection appeared in front of the Origin Holy Artifact that resembled a giant Stone Mortar. He smacked the treasure heavily.

DONG...

A dull blast rang through the Heavenly Lake Elysium and everything within seemed to freeze for a second.

In the space within the Origin Holy Artifact, Lou Yi's transformation stopped.

Lou Yi, who was in a state of deep cultivation during the transformation of his Dipper Origin, opened his eyes violently. Before he could make sense of the situation, he was struck by a massive backlash. Boundless energy burst forth and his body exploded instantly. The only thing that was left in the Stone Mortar was a layer of Origin Liquid.

From the time True Immortal Chong Shan's projection forced Lou Yi's advancement to fail to Lou Yi turning into a puddle of Origin Liquid, not even a second had passed.

Even True Immortal Tang Yu, who was much stronger than the projection, didn't have time to react.

“What are you doing?!” True Immortal Tang Yu roared and she seemed to have guessed something. She was stuck in a state of disbelief, or to put it more accurately, she found what he had done hard to accept.

True Immortal Chong Shan’s projection pointed at the Origin Holy Artifact and the puddle of Origin Liquid that contained the essence of half a True Immortal emerged before going straight into his mouth.

True Immortal Chong Shan’s aura nearly tripled the instant he swallowed the liquid, but he quickly restrained it.

His aged appearance started to fade as he returned to the prime of his life. A middle-aged cultivator whose facial features were sharp and exuded an imposing air was revealed.

Pressing his lips together, True Immortal Chong Shan looked like he wasn’t satisfied with what he devoured and he sighed softly, “It’s a shame... He failed to complete the transformation and I’m afraid it won’t be enough for me to reach the third tier of the Martial Void Realm... Fortunately, it allowed me to regain 50 to 60 years of my life! It’s not as though I made a complete loss this time.”

#### Chapter 978: The Ones Who Got Away

In the void above the Five Links Ridge that surrounded the Heavenly Lake Elysium, True Immortal Su Kun of the Heaven Embroidered Palace felt her eyelids jumping and turned to stare in a certain direction into the void. She gasped in fright. “I didn’t think that Senior would personally arrive...”

The seemingly calm space started to crumble as an aged figure clad in pristine robes emerged. The Aged expert maintained a solemn expression while taking several steps forward.

Staring at Su Kun, the Aged expert nodded slightly before turning to stare at the hidden Five Links Ridge below.

Su Kun was shocked by the appearance of the Aged expert and her gaze twisted slightly and her expression turned slightly unnatural. “Senior, you...”

Finally, the Aged expert decided to speak. A hoarse voice rang through the air. “I separated a portion of my Void Origin and created a projection. I left it with my disciple and they’re currently in the Heavenly Lake Elysium.”

True Immortal Su Kun revealed a look of enlightenment. However, she didn’t think that the appearance of the Aged expert’s projection would cause too much deviations in her original plan and she chuckled softly, “Looks like you care a lot about your junior for you to send a projection in with them...”

The Aged expert was none other than True Immortal Chong Shan of the Emptiness Drifting Mountain. He turned to stare at True Immortal Su Kun before muttering in an indifferent voice, “I already have one foot in the grave and there’s no need for me to have too many concerns. I have to say that your Heaven Embroidery Palace’s plans truly exceeded my expectations. You were actually willing to give up such a huge slice of cake with the Elysium placed right in front of you. You even allowed an outsider to take part in this! Looks like this is one of the conditions the Xiong Family put up, right?”

True Immortal Su Kun smiled softly in response. “Nothing I do can be hidden from Senior. Even though Junior Sister Tang Yu is not a member of our Heaven Embroidery Palace, we helped her during her ascension to the Martial Void Realm.”

“What a great scheme! Alas... I don’t have much time left and I can’t care too much about these matters now...” True Immortal Chong Shan sighed softly.

True Immortal Su Kun continued, “To think that the Emptiness Drifting Mountain was in the same situation, or possibly worse back then... They relied on you to restore their glory... Disciples of my sect have heard of your legends...”

All of a sudden, True Immortal Chong Xu sighed, “Looks like you planned a little better than I did... My disciple is doomed...”

True Immortal Su Kun looked at True Immortal Chong Shan’s placid face and asked, “Why don’t you seem anxious?”

True Immortal Chong Shan’s lips trembled slightly, and it seemed as though he was forcing his smile back. The next second, True Immortal Su Kun turned to stare at the Five Links Ridge and muttered to herself, “This is strange... The disturbance to the World Origin Source stopped... That should mean that your junior should have failed his ascension, why...”

Before she could finish, a powerful light tore through the entrance of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake and entered True Immortal Chong Shan’s body at a speed no one else could catch.

A powerful stream of vitality filled him and his withered body started to recover. Everything happened so quickly that True Immortal Chong Shan was unable to conceal what was happening.

Of course, he didn’t plan to intentionally hide what he did from True Immortal Su Kun. He just didn’t wish for too much of the vitality to escape...

In the blink of an eye, the ripples around his body disappeared. True Immortal Su Kun’s gaze turned a lot more serious and she became a lot more cautious. “Senior, you’re a ruthless cultivator indeed... I’m afraid it wasn’t easy to nurture such a promising junior... You just gave up on him so easily...”

With his projection returning after absorbing Lou Yi’s essence, the death qi that surrounded True Immortal Chong Shan dissipated by a whole lot. His skin regained its original glow and his withered body was filled with vitality again.

True Immortal Chong Shan, who was reaching the end of his lifespan, succeeded in extending his life even further. That wasn’t all. His cultivation also made a huge leap forward. It was as though he would be able to step into the third tier Martial Void Realm as long as he tried a little harder. When that happens, his lifespan might extend for dozens more years!

Now that he was no longer on the verge of death, his voice became a lot more gentle than before. He sighed, “I had no choice in the matter. Who can blame me for not being strong enough to challenge your junior sister? I wouldn’t have chosen to do this if there was any other way out...”

However, his tone was one of extreme indifference as though he didn’t just sacrifice a disciple he poured his heart and soul into.

True Immortal Su Kun

Asked suddenly, “Actually, I’m starting to get curious... If True Immortal Chong Xu learns of what you did today, what would he think?”

“No one will be able to tell him...” True Immortal Chong Shan’s voice turned frosty as he declared resolutely.

Raising her chin slightly, True Immortal Su Kun revealed a look of realization.

However, tiny void ripples that were nearly undetectable by ordinary experts appeared the next moment. Both True Immortal Chong Shan and True Immortal Su Kun were barely able to feel its presence and they failed to react in time.

A trace of hesitation appeared on True Immortal Su Kun’s face as she looked at True Immortal Chong Shan whose expression had turned solemn. She muttered, “Was I mistaken? That seemed like someone escaping from the Heavenly Lake Elysium...”

Even though she sounded like she was in a state of disbelief, a trace of schadenfreude could be seen deep in her eyes.

Seems like the matter of True Immortal Chong Shan Blood Refining his descendants can’t be hidden any longer! However, that begs another question... How did that person manage to escape? Even experts at our level are unable to determine the direction at which they went...

A cold snort left True Immortal Chong Shan’s lips. “No one can get away!”

As soon as the words left his lips, he disappeared from his spot.

True Immortal Su Kun merely chuckled softly. Even though the person who escaped seemed to use an extremely amazing method to do so, she refused to believe that they would be able to hide from the pursuit of an experienced Martial Void Realm True Immortal!

“Come to think of it... Tang Yu should have already obtained control of the Heavenly Lake Elysium...” True Immortal Su Kun muttered softly.

With the Heaven Embroidery Palace fully supporting Tang Yu’s takeover of the Heavenly Lake Elysium, nothing should go wrong. Even though there were several twists and turns, and True Immortal Chong Shan even took away a portion of the world origin contained within the Elysium to restore his vitality, nothing else should go wrong. She should have been able to control the Heavenly Lake Elysium now that he had left.

“Why hasn’t she come out to meet me?” True Immortal Su Kun mumbled before turning to look at the Five Links Ridge which was faintly discernible beneath her feet. A trace of doubt could be seen in her eyes.

The next moment... The space above the Five Links Ridge rippled once again and it felt exactly like what happened earlier.

This... Did someone else use the same method to escape from the Heavenly Lake Elysium?!

A bad premonition filled True Immortal Su Kun’s heart. When she was wondering if she should give chase to the second person who escaped, horrifying fluctuations came from the Heavenly Lake Elysium below.

Under her shocked gaze, the Five Links Ridge started to collapse. Even though it was protected by the grand formation, the clouds and mist that surrounded the mountain peaks started to dissipate and the Five Links Ridge was revealed to the world. Along with the solitary peak that contained the Heavenly Lake, everything started crumbling.

Realizing that something was amiss, True Immortal Su Kun flew towards the Five Links Ridge to take a closer look at what was going on.

As soon as she took a single step, the void in the distance started to peel open again as True Immortal Chong Shan returned. He stared at her with an expressionless face.

She couldn't help but stop as she turned to look at True Immortal Chong Shan with a smile. "Senior, did you manage to catch the rat that escaped?"

Glowering in disappointment, True Immortal Chong Shan growled, "They probably passed through the heavenly screen and escaped into the vast sea of stars..."

True Immortal Su Kun gasped in shock. "How... How is that possible? Were they using rank six talismans?!"

Still shaking his head, True Immortal Chong Shan didn't respond. However, a strange look could be seen in his eyes.

In the next second, True Immortal Tang Yu's voice rang through the skies. "Senior Sister Su, hurry and stop the person who escaped! He stole the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar!"

Su Kun wasn't the only one who was shocked by the news. Even true Immortal Chong Shan was in disbelief at what just happened.

...

Back in the Heavenly Lake Elysium when True Immortal Chong Shan's projection swallowed Lou Yi's essence...

Huang Yu realized that something was wrong after True Immortal Chong Shan's projection turned younger.

He wasn't the only one who realized things were going south. Lou Zhe and Dai Yikong also revealed unnatural expressions.

True Immortal Tang Yu might have been shocked at what True Immortal Chong Shan did, but as a True Immortal herself, she understood what had just happened. She quickly calmed down and muttered, "Old man, aren't you afraid that I will spread what happened today? You'll become public enemy number 1 for what you just did!"

True Immortal Chong Shan's projection chuckled under his breath and said with a profound look in his eyes, "No you won't. In fact, I'll leave the rest of them here for you to do as you wish!"

After he spoke, he turned to leave. However, he paused for a moment before tilting his head in her direction again. "Right. I forgot to remind you. There seems to be quite a few little rats in the Elysium. True Immortal Tang Yu, you better not get overconfident and mess this up!"

True Immortal Tang Yu gnashed her teeth and spat, "There's no need for you to worry about me. Please take your leave whenever you like. I won't be seeing you out!"

True Immortal Chong Shan's projection took a single step and turned into a streak of light that flew out of the Heavenly Lake Elysium. All that was left behind was Shan Yunchao's lifeless body.

The lustrous mist started to condense once again as a figure stepped out and started walking towards everyone below.

Lou Zhe and Dai Yikong revealed looks of fear as they started running in different directions, only to hear True Immortal Tang Yu's mocking laughter echoing behind them.

However, it was quickly replaced by her loud gasp. Lou Zhe and Dai Yikong turned to stare at where they had left and discovered Huang Yu had already disappeared.

True Immortal Tang Yu's voice boomed in their minds the next moment. "What is the name of your companion? How did he leave this place?!"

#### Chapter 979: Threat of the True Immortal

As True Immortal Tang Yu flicked her fingers twice, Lou Zhe and Dai Yikong were blown into dust.

Staring at the spot where Huang Yu disappeared, True Immortal Tang Yu seemed to fall deep into thought. However, she tapped her finger on the Elysium Boundary Marker and Origin Holy Artifact to return them to where they were supposed to be. Her figure swayed slightly the next moment before disappearing from where she stood.

When she reappeared, she had already arrived in the vicinity of where the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar was.

She stared at the strange space in front of her and instead of being angered by what was happening, she chuckled in amusement. "Power of the Elysium? This is interesting... It actually has the ability to stop me from appearing right in front of the pillar!"

Earlier, she wanted to transport herself right in front of the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar. However, she was interrupted by the power of the Elysium as she made her way over. Even as an expert in the Martial Void Realm, she was unable to continue passing through space when it was being disrupted by an outside force. She was forced to emerge from the void dozens of miles away from where the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar was.

However, that was about the extent of power Shang Xia could draw from the Elysium with the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar.

True Immortal Tang Yu took another step and she quickly entered the domain where Shang Xia could control with the power of the Elysium.

His Five Element Origin that had fused into the Elysium transformed into a five colored giant grindstone that spun with as much force as it could to destroy the barrier around True Immortal Tang Yu.

The void around her started to transform and twist as space crumbled in an attempt to stop her from getting closer. She discovered that despite taking a single step, she only managed to travel a thousand or so feet! That was far from what a Martial Void Realm expert was capable of!

What did that mean?!



With such a powerful force trying to stop her, she was certain that there was another rat who managed to refine the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar to draw on the power of the Elysium. The rat who did it even had the ability to intercept a Martial Void Realm expert!

Who the hell is this?!

True Immortal Tang Yu was starting to feel annoyed, but her curiosity overwhelmed her anger.

She could be sure that the rat who refined the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar wasn't a disciple of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake. Moreover, from the strength that was displayed, she felt that their cultivation was definitely in the large completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm or higher.

If the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake had an expert at that level, they should have attempted a breakthrough to the Martial Void Realm the moment they sealed the sect back then. They wouldn't have allowed the situation to turn so dire.

Also... The rat was most likely not from the Emptiness Drifting Mountain.

An expert of the Martial Dipper Realm with such foundations and strength would be rare even in the Emptiness Drifting Mountain. Even if True Immortal Chong Shan wanted to devour and give up on a disciple at that level, True Immortal Chong Xu would never allow it.

That made the identity of the rat who refined the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar a mystery!

Could experts of other factions also have infiltrated the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake when the Martial Dipper Realm experts of the Emptiness Drifting Mountain made their move?

Were they disciples of the Heaven Embroidery Palace?

That didn't seem too likely. Moreover, there was no need for them to do anything since True Immortal Tang Yu was the one who would control the Heavenly Lake Elysium.

The more she thought about it, the less urgently she wanted to get her hands on the rat. Instead, she reached into the lustrous mist around her and pulled out a drop of dew before lightly flinging it into the void.

A moment later, a figure appeared in the Heavenly Lake Elysium and rushed over to where True Immortal Tang Yu was.

"Greetings, True Immortal Tang Yu!" Fei Gu didn't stare at her directly and his gaze was lowered. He held his hands before him and gave her a deep bow.

In a placid voice, True Immortal Tang Yu mumbled, "There's no need for such formalities. Let me ask you... How many people from the Emptiness Drifting Mountain came to infiltrate the Heavenly Lake Elysium and who were they exactly? Are there any foreign cultivators among them?"

Fei Gu raised his head in shock and when he felt a piercing cold sensation deep in his eyes from staring at the ball of mist, he hastily lowered his head again. "There were 6 of us in total. The group from the Emptiness Drifting Mountain consisted of Lou Yi, Lou Zhe, Shan Yunchao, Huang Yu, and myself. There was also Shang Jianqi, a master of breaking formations Huang Yu found in Star Origin City. The Emptiness Drifting Mountain also had a spy they placed in the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake a long time ago. Other than that, I don't think there's anyone else."

“Master of breaking formations?” True Immortal Tang Yu mumbled. She thought back to everyone she had seen and noticed that the only person who didn’t appear earlier was the ‘master of breaking formations’ Fei Gu mentioned. She couldn’t help but ask, “How are his skills?”

Fei Gu thought about it for a moment and replied, “His skills are brilliant! Lou Yi and Lou Zhe probably had treasures True Immortal Chong Shan prepared for them to break the formation around the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake, but with Shang Jiangqi’s skills, they didn’t use a single one of their trump cards at all!”

“Oh?” A light flashed in True Immortal Tang Yu’s eyes. She nodded to herself and mumbled, “Alright, there’s nothing else for you to do here. You can choose to leave, or to return to the Heaven Embroidery Palace. However... Would you like to stay here to become one of the elders of this Elysium after I take over?”

Fei Gu struggled with the decision slightly but it didn’t take him long to make up his mind. “I am willing to listen to True Immortal Tang Yu and stay in this Elysium!”

“Oh? Why is that so?” True Immortal Tang Yu raised an eyebrow curiously while asking.

Fei Gu arranged his thoughts and he didn’t dare to hide anything from the True Immortal before him. “Even though I came from the Heaven Embroidery Palace, their inheritances are more beneficial for female cultivators. Even though I made great contributions this time, I might not receive the full support of the sect even after I return. Now that True Immortal Tang Yu gained control of the Heavenly Lake Elysium, it’s going to be a huge undertaking to transform it from top to bottom. However, it’s also a great opportunity! I am willing to give my all to assist you. Moreover, the inheritances here benefit cultivators of all genders...”

True Immortal Tang Yu chuckled happily in response. “Alright, since you’re willing to stay, you can focus on carrying out all my orders. I won’t treat you badly either. As for the matters regarding the Heaven Embroidery Palace... I’ll deal with it. I’ll ask them for the favor of letting you stay here. I believe Senior Sister Su wouldn’t reject it.”

Fei Gu felt a trace of joy and revealed a look of excitement. “Many thanks to True Immortal Tang Yu’s consideration!”

“Hm.” True Immortal Tang Yu grunted once before reaching out her hand. A brass bracelet landed in Fei Gu’s hand. “I believe you’re no stranger to this treasure. It shall belong to you not. Head outside and placate the other experts not in the Elysium. After I deal with matters here, I’ll explain everything to the remaining members of the Solitary Peak Heavenly Lake.”

Fei Gu held Lou Yi’s treasure carefully. He had seen its might back then and a burst of joy filled his heart. “True Immortal Tang Yu... No... Ancestor Tang Yu, please rest assured that I will do my best!”

True Immortal Tang Yu chuckled softly in response and waved her hand to send Fei Gu away.

After she was done, she turned back to stare at the location where Shang Xia was. Her gaze seemed to pierce through the distance of dozens of miles to meet Shang Xia's eyes.

“Looks like you should be Mister Shang Jianqi from Star Origin City. Will it be possible for you to show yourself?” True Immortal Tang Yu's voice rang clearly in Shang Xia's mind.

Shaking his head violently, Shang Xia protected his soul with his divine will as a trace of lingering fear appeared in his eyes. He couldn't help but feel a trace of anger rising in his heart.

True Immortal Tang Yu might have asked him to show himself, but she tried attacking his soul with her voice earlier. She was able to directly affect his soul and the moment he was distracted, she would most likely be able to capitalize on that moment of weakness to take action.

Fortunately, Shang Xia's divine will was powerful and his soul was firm. He also had the Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness. That was how he realized something was off when her voice rang in his mind.

Faced with her question, he didn't respond immediately.

Rather than answering her question, he responded another way. Pissed off by the dirty tricks she was pulling, Shang Xia swung the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar in her direction without any warning. After refining the treasure a little further with the recognition of the Holy Artifact Spirit, he was able to control its size.

Power of the Elysium gathered above the surface of the Heavenly Lake and formed a massive glowing pillar that smashed directly at True Immortal Tang Yu's head.

Raising her eyebrows, True Immortal Tang Yu snapped, “Preposterous! How dare you...”

Sending the lustrous ball of mist out, A spatial tunnel opened in the skies above, and a heavenly river seemed to descend. It shattered the pillar made from the power of the Elysium.

“Don't refuse a toast only to drink a forfeit!” True Immortal Tang Yu growled before taking another step towards Shang Xia.

However, the space around her started to twist the moment she made her move. 2 powerful rings of five colored light made from Shang Xia's Five Element Qi arrived. It shattered the void around her while eating away at the mist that surrounded her. It was also corroded by the mist at an astonishing speed and both sides were grinding away at each other's energy.

This time, True Immortal Tang Yu moved double the distance towards Shang Xia. It might seem like an improvement, but only she knew that she used more than double her energy as compared to before to make that much progress.

With how much power of the Elysium Shang Jianqi was pulling, she could tell that the mysterious master of breaking formations not only had the ability to disrupt and resist an expert at the Martial Void Realm. He most likely already had the qualifications to fight against and threaten one!

The mist surrounding her being eaten away was the biggest proof of that! After all, that was made from True Immortal Tang Yu's Void Origin!

“Who exactly are you?!” True Immortal Tang Yu no longer believed that Shang Jianqi was a mere master at breaking formation. In her eyes, Shang Jianqi definitely came from one of the other factions and was planning something sinister by infiltrating the Heavenly Lake Elysium.

At the bottom of the lake, Shang Xia controlled his divine will to protect his soul as he unleashed the full might of his Five Element Annihilation Yin Yang Ring to stop True Immortal Tang Yu from closing the distance so quickly.

Earlier, he could tell that Huang Yu successfully escaped with the rank five Teleportation Talisman. He was certain that even with True Immortal Tang Yu so close by, he would also be able to escape without a problem!

Since his escape route was already secured, Shang Xia was unwilling to let go of such an amazing chance to challenge a Martial Void Realm True Immortal!

Ever since he comprehended his martial intent to enter the grand completion stage of the Five Element Realm, it was his third time going all out!

The first was when he just comprehended his martial intent in the Spirit Luxuriant World and exchanged a single blow with Kou Chongxue.

The second was during the exchange between 10 True Immortals in the Star Relay. He pushed himself to his limit back then and managed to stay till the end.

Now that he was fighting True Immortal Tang Yu, he wouldn't hold back! He could fight to his heart's content!

Chapter 980: Retreating Unharmful, Fusing with the Elysium

Shang Xia might have found a rare opportunity to fight against a True Immortal and was planning to go all out to test the limits of his ability against True Immortal Tang Yu who entered the Martial Void Realm for an unknown amount of time, but from the start of their exchange, all she did was take 2 small steps!

Even after giving it everything he had, he was only able to disrupt her attempts at getting closer!

Of course... Even though he merely affected her movements... To True Immortal Tang Yu, his actions caused her endless humiliation!

At the end of the day, all he was to her was a 'mere Martial Dipper Realm rat'. No matter what, she was a True Immortal! As a True Immortal, she hadn't even seen the other party's true appearance and she couldn't even accurately determine his cultivation realm!

Was there any Martial Dipper Realm expert who could achieve something like that?!

Was he just too strong, or was True Immortal Tang Yu just a joke?!

Fortunately, she was in the Heavenly Lake Elysium and there was no one who could see what was happening. If what happened were to spread in the Spirit Abundance World, she would become a laughingstock!

The more she thought about it, the angrier she became. She entered the Heavenly Lake Elysium in high spirits and even after True Immortal Chong Shan's interference, she wasn't too affected. Now, she was really starting to get mad.

As she took her third step, the space within the Heavenly Lake Elysium trembled violently. She was no longer bothered by the strange power that was obstructing her as she circulated her inner qi without restraint. She knew that the other party would only exhaust himself faster. She stomped resolutely onto her next position.

5000 feet!

The distance between them shrank by a third, and the mist around True Immortal Tang Yu expanded greatly. The disturbance was felt throughout the entire Heavenly Lake Elysium as massive waves crashed in all directions.

True Immortal Tang Yu took another step and the void around her turned blurry. This time, she managed to travel 8000 feet!

The distance between Shang Xia and True Immortal Tang Yu was less than 5 miles at that point and through the clear water of the Heavenly Lake, True Immortal Tang Yu managed to catch a blurry image of Shang Xia.

What she didn't know was that through the water, Shang Xia also managed to see her true appearance.

Raising her legs again, True Immortal Tang Yu wanted to take another step when she felt the void around her loosening greatly. She managed to cross the entire distance and appear where Shang Xia originally was.

Did he give up resisting?!

No, wait a second! Where the hell is he?!

True Immortal Tang Yu swept her divine soul through the Heavenly Lake Elysium and her powerful aura covered the entire region. Powerful fluctuations caused terrifying winds to sweep through the Heavenly Lake Elysium and giant tsunami-like waves formed.

He was gone! He disappeared from the Heavenly Lake Elysium right under her nose!

She felt extremely humiliated by what just happened as she continued to sweep her divine soul through the Elysium to look for any traces of that person. She refused to believe that a mere Martial Dipper Realm cultivator had such amazing abilities!

However, it had only been a moment when the Heavenly Lake Elysium showed signs of collapsing.

True Immortal Tang Yu finally snapped back to reality and realized what had happened. The Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar disappeared along with that mysterious rat!

“Senior Sister Su, stop that guy! He stole the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar!”

True Immortal Tang Yu understood that the rat had escaped and she immediately requested True Immortal Su Kun's help.

The Heavenly Lake Elysium that had lost its Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar was no longer able to support the massive space it contained. The spatial collapse in several regions was just the start. If she couldn't stabilize the space within, a large-scale collapse would happen soon!

“That thief... Liar... He wrecked the entire place... How dare he...” Even with her years of refined mannerisms, she couldn't help but curse out loud. She basically threw out all the curses that had been hidden in her mind in her years of cultivation.

Despite her rage, the Heavenly Lake Elysium didn't stop collapsing. Instead, it started to grow in intensity.

Massive holes in the void appeared and they started to swallow everything in its way. Even the entrance of the Secret Region containing the Heavenly Lake Elysium was affected. Even the void around the Five Links Ridge in the surroundings didn't remain stable.

Only then did True Immortal Tang Yu realize that something was wrong. Even if the Heavenly Lake Elysium lost the support of its Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar, the destruction shouldn't happen so quickly!

The Heavenly Lake Elysium wasn't formed recently. Its history stretched back more than a thousand years and it had been tempered and strengthened by many True Immortals since its existence. The space it contained should be extremely sturdy and even without the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar, it should be able to maintain itself for some time. At the very least, the collapse should be slow and gradual. The entire region shouldn't crumble as quickly as it was!

Finally regaining her wits, she finally realized the cause of the rapid destruction. More than half the world origin within the Heavenly Lake Origin was gone!

Is Chong Shan behind this?

No... He understands the importance of maintaining the balance between the 9 great powers of our Spirit Abundance World. In fact... He should be even clearer than me on what that means!

If he's not behind this... That could only mean that his junior did this when attempting to break through to the Martial Void Realm!

... The more she thought about it, the less it made sense. After all, during the ascension process, the junior of the Emptiness Drifting Mountain should have been drawing world origin from the World Origin Source through the Origin Holy Artifact. It was something she and her Senior Sister Su felt earlier...

Moreover, even when breaking through to the Martial Void Realm, it didn't make sense for them to be able to devour more than half the world origin in an Elysium!

If True Immortal Chong Shan wasn't behind it, and the junior of the Emptiness Drifting Mountain wasn't either... Who else could it be?!

True Immortal Tang Yu couldn't figure it out no matter how hard she tried but the speed at which the Elysium was collapsing wasn't giving her the luxury of time to think. In the short time that passed, a sixth of the Heavenly Lake Elysium had already collapsed and it wasn't slowing down!

“Senior Sister Su, the interior of the Elysium is crumbling! Please assist me!” True Immortal Tang Yu tried to stop the collapse, but the effects were barely visible.

She might be a Martial Void Realm True Immortal, but she was no old monster in the Martial Void Realm! She knew how to draw enough energy to supply herself, but she didn't know how she should go about using it to prevent the collapse of an Elysium!

Everyone had their own path of cultivation and True Immortal Tang Yu could be considered a wandering cultivator before she received the help of the Heaven Embroidery Palace. She had no backing in the past and there was no superpower to provide her with any cultivation help. She would be lucky to receive enough cultivation resources. She didn't have the time to develop other auxiliary abilities.

However, the True Immortals outside didn't seem to hear her cry for help.

Actually, the infiltration of the Heavenly Lake Elysium had already attracted the attention of many True Immortals of the Spirit Abundance World. It might not have been long since it happened, but the reaction speed of True Immortals was nothing to scoff at.

At the moment, True Immortal Su Kun and True Immortal Chong Shan were the only ones who were above the Five Links Ridge, but at least 7 other True Immortals' divine souls had descended.

Everyone paying attention to the situation was equally as shocked when they noticed the collapse of the Heavenly Lake Elysium caused by the disappearance of the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar.

The next moment, 2 of the divine souls that had descended disappeared as they went to look outside the heavenly screen.

When the others noticed the speed at which the Heavenly Lake Elysium was collapsing due to the lack of world origin, a few other divine souls disappeared.

Without a doubt, all of them couldn't sit still and watch as the Heavenly Lake Elysium crumbled to the ground! Those who left clearly tried to look for Shang Xia who stole the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar! Oh right... To be more accurate, they were looking for 'Shang Jianqi' of the Star Origin City who stole the treasure!

The Heavenly Lake Elysium continued to crumble, and even with True Immortal Tang Yu's resistance, if the Elysium continued to collapse, it would pass its critical point and there would be no stopping it!

True Immortal Tang Yu, who was trying her best, cried for help once again. "Senior Sister Su, a fifth of the Elysium has already collapsed! Is there any way you can stop it from worsening?!"

In the void above the Five Links Ridge, True Immortal Su Kun and True Immortal Chong Shan exchanged a glance and refused to respond to True Immortal Tang Yu's second cry for help.

The silence caused True Immortal Tang Yu to realize something was wrong. No longer bothering with the collapsing Heavenly Lake Elysium, she transformed into a streak of light that flew towards the exit. However... When she was about to leave the Elysium, a beautiful and powerful curtain of light that was made with 2 different Void Origins appeared to seal the exit, trapping her within.

"Senior Sister Su, Senior Chong Shan, what's the meaning of this?" True Immortal Tang Yu was stunned for a second, but she felt a chill running down her heart.

However, it quickly transformed into endless rage as she questioned the 2 outside. While she screamed, she started to store her energy to break the curtain of light.

Rumble...

A deep blast rang through the Heavenly Lake Continent as the exchange between the 3 True Immortals caused the region to become even more damaged.

Unfortunately, True Immortal Tang Yu was a first tier Martial Void Realm True Immortal. How could she do anything against the combined might of 2 second tier Martial Void Realm True Immortals?

“Junior Sister Tang, please remain calm.” True Immortal Su Kun’s voice eventually rang in her ears. “You understand what we have to do. We cannot allow any Elysium to crumble! If we can’t find the missing Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar or locate a replacement pillar, we can only trouble you to support the Elysium with your Void Origin!”