

The Heavens 991

Chapter 991: The Missing One

The tiny furnace that Shang Xia was given actually solved a massive source of trouble for him.

However, he quickly discovered that even though the furnace could store it for some time, it was showing signs of melting. He had to take it out occasionally to let the furnace cool before putting the flame back.

At the very least, he didn't have to drag the ball of flames around any longer...

Storing the flames wasn't the only function of the furnace. After refining the treasure, he discovered that it had the ability to extract some essence from the flame that was stored within for the cultivator using it to refine.

Even though Shang Xia was no longer carrying the flame out in the open, he didn't stop refining it. With the help of the furnace, the refinement process was simplified.

It hadn't been long since he received the furnace but he hadn't placed it down. He held it in his hand and played with it while learning about its different functions.

Of course, he wasn't holding it because he was acting like a child who got a new toy. Holding it would allow him to assist in the process of dissipating its heat. Otherwise, it wouldn't take long before the furnace would turn bright red and burn up. As he held the furnace, he extracted the flame from time to time to allow the treasure to cool off.

Shang Xia's journey to the East and South to obtain their spiritualities could be said to be a success. With them in hand, he obtained half of the Four Extremity Spiritualities.

The main reason he could obtain them so easily was because of the state the Azure Oddity World was in. As the World's Will could feel its end coming, it released extreme amounts of world origin. The world origin that emerged was used to nurture spiritual treasures and herbs. However... Everything seemed a little too late.

Since the Azure Oddity World was coming to an end, Shang Xia needed to meet up with Huang Yu as soon as possible. Now that the final Elysium has been destroyed, the gazes of the True Immortals would turn to the rest of the Azure Oddity World. It would be impossible for Shang Xia to move about recklessly any longer.

What Shang Xia wanted to know was Huang Yu's haul...

With his help, Huang Yu's inner qi had also been transformed. Also, it wasn't a normal transformation like those he helped earlier. With Shang Xia's help, Huang Yu was able to avoid the suppression from the World's Will while keeping his combat abilities at the third element Martial Dipper Realm. Even if he ran into experts in the fourth element Martial Dipper Realm, he would be able to put up a good fight. It shouldn't be a problem for him to escape unscathed.

As such, Shang Xia wasn't worried about Huang Yu's safety at all.

Arriving at the location they agreed to meet, Shang Xia activated an Anchoring Talisman which would guide Huang Yu over.

After waiting for half a day, Huang Yu finally arrived.

Seeing the unsteady aura fluctuation around Huang Yu, Shang Xia's heart sank. "Are you injured?"

Huang Yu waved his hands casually before taking a deep breath. "No, but I was locked in combat with someone for a long time. I used up nearly 80 percent of my inner qi. Looks like I will need half a month before I can recover to my peak state."

"What happened?" Hearing that Huang Yu had been fighting, Shang Xia couldn't care about the Four Extremity Spiritualities any longer. He took out a bunch of mid-grade essence crystals before deploying a simple Spirit Gathering Restriction in the air to assist with his recovery.

When Shang Xia ventured to the East and South, he killed 4 Martial Dipper Realm experts. Along with the loot he obtained in the Heavenly Lake Elysium back in the Spirit Abundance World, the number of mid and high-grade essence crystals he had increased by quite a bit.

Perhaps it was due to the fatigue and stress that had accumulated during the battle, Huang Yu started to feel a lot sleepier now that he regrouped with Shang Xia. With such a powerful expert by his side, he knew that his life was no longer in danger. The Five Element Spirit Gathering Restriction brought dense energy into his surroundings and fatigue was ready to overwhelm him.

Focusing slightly, Huang Yu tossed a pill into his mouth before handing a snowy white horn to Shang Xia. "This should contain the Spirituality of the North. The Spirituality of the West is in the hands of an expert from the Spirit Mammoth World... I wasn't able to retrieve it..."

Huang Yu ran through everything that happened with Shang Xia. Seeing as Huang Yu was forcing himself to remain awake, Shang Xia muttered, "You should enter seclusion for a short rest. I'll deal with matters here."

Using the last of his energy, Huang Yu mumbled, "You have to be careful. Those True Immortals..."

Shang Xia nodded before sending both Huang Yu and the Spirit Gathering Restriction through the void. He found a rather secluded mountain range before creating a hole in one of them. Placing restrictions around it, it became a temporary shelter for Huang Yu before Shang Xia turned into a streak of light that shot away.

According to what Huang Yu said, After separating from Shang Xia, he decided to head to the North as he had the Spirit Abundance World's Spirituality of the North as a reference. Even though he didn't have the Crimson Soul Tablet to act as a guide, everything went pretty smoothly since he knew what he had to find. It didn't take him long to discover the Spirituality of the North on a wandering Horned Bear.

The Horned Bear was a rank four spiritual beast native to the Azure Oddity World and Huang Yu didn't use much effort to kill the beast and cut it up. The Spirituality of the North that entered the beast was perfectly preserved in its horn.

Once he was done, he started to head west.

Perhaps it had something to do with the last struggle of the World's Will, by the time Huang Yu arrived, a batch of spiritual treasures had been created by the world. Experts from the various worlds arrived to fight for them and Huang Yu was dragged into the mess. Just like that, a huge battle broke out with experts in the fourth and fifth element of the Martial Dipper Realm as the main battle force.

Even with the suppression of the World's Will, those experts were still a force to be reckoned with. Huang Yu might be fighting with his full strength, he was still exhausted after going through multiple battles. No matter how special and powerful his techniques were, his inner qi wouldn't be able to keep up.

Rushing through the battlefield and taking part in many battles, Huang Yu finally locked on to the treasure that contained the Spirituality of the West. He discovered that it was most likely obtained by an expert from the Spirit Mammoth World with a cultivation level similar to Shang Xia in the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm.

“Because the final bastion of the Azure Oddity World has fallen, the Azure Oddity World has basically turned into a hunting ground for the experts of the various worlds... The person who obtained the treasure probably didn't get far. It's not like he would rush to meet up with the True Immortals of his world to leave. However... If I go over and fight him, he's definitely going to beg the True Immortal behind him for help. Facing the request of an expert at the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm... Their True Immortals will definitely save them!” Shang Xia muttered to himself as he tried to track the expert down. He even prepared himself to fight a True Immortal.

With 3 of the Four Extremity Spiritualities in hand, there was no way Shang Xia would give up the last one. Even with the threat of facing a True Immortal, he had to give it a shot!

He quickly arrived at the battlefield described by Huang Yu. The area could be said to be massive, but the battle had already ended as the experts of various worlds left.

Changing his aura constantly, Shang Xia pretended to be an expert from the various worlds to ask around. He quickly discovered where experts of the Spirit Mammoth World gathered. Even though they could go anywhere they liked, most of them focused on the South and North.

If Shang Xia wasn't mistaken, the expert from the Spirit Mammoth World who held the Spirituality of the West was working alone when he took part in the battle in the West. Since experts of the Spirit Mammoth World were gathered in the North and South, he probably left for the North as it was closer to where they were at the moment. There, he would be able to hide and recuperate with less worries.

Soon, Shang Xia discovered a gathering spot for the experts of the Spirit Mammoth World. Hiding hundreds of miles away, he carefully observed them. Changing his aura to fit an expert of the Spirit Mammoth World, he also changed his style of dressing. From far, he looked no different from an ordinary Martial Dipper Realm expert of the Spirit Mammoth World.

Flying out from his hiding spot, he 'ran into' a group of experts of the Spirit Mammoth World who were returning to their gathering spot.

None of them discovered anything strange with Shang Xia and as they made their way back together, they started to chat. Through their conversation and some slight probes, Shang Xia learned that there were only 3 experts with cultivation level at the fifth element of the Martial Dipper Realm and above.

They were the strongest experts in their gathering point if there was no True Immortal present. Of the 3, 2 of them brought members of their sect out to hunt other experts or search for treasure. There was only 1 grand completion stage Martial Dipper Realm expert in their gathering spot at the moment, and he was called Feng Fuzi. According to the experts of the Spirit Mammoth World, he returned not too long ago and entered seclusion to recover after experiencing a massive battle.

With that, Shang Xia determined that the Spirituality of the West was most definitely on Feng Fuzi.

The gathering spot of the Spirit Mammoth World in the North was situated on one of the mountains and there was already a grand formation set up. It was mainly used as a warning formation, and anyone who entered would be screened.

However, the checks seemed to be a mere formality. Thinking about it, it made sense. After all, experts of the world they were invading should be in a state of complete despair due to the loss of their world. The experts of the various worlds were busy hunting for treasures. No accidents should happen especially when their True Immortals were nearby.

Chatting with the experts of the Spirit Mammoth World casually, Shang Xia felt a faint divine will passing through him. No one stopped them as they entered the gathering point.

As soon as they were in, Shang Xia quickly bid the others farewell before heading to where the experts of the Moyun Sect were.

The Moyun Sect was one of the Elysiums of the Spirit Mammoth World and it was said that they had 2 True Immortals at the helm with 1 of them taking part in the expedition. Feng Fuzi, whose cultivation had reached the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm, had already been acknowledged as the third True Immortal of the Moyun Sect.

Shang Xia, who was closing in on them, was discovered by the experts of the Moyun Sect. 2 of them flew to pincer him.

“Who are you? Is something the matter?” An expert at the third element of the Martial Dipper Realm asked. He sounded rather polite. After all, in his eyes, Shang Xia was an expert from their Spirit Mammoth World.

Glancing at them, Shang Xia’s gaze landed on a mountain cave behind them a moment later. “I have long since heard of Feng Fuzi of the Moyun Sect! I came here to meet him!”

The person who greeted Shang Xia earlier wanted to say something, but before the words could leave his lips, the stranger who arrived attacked. A powerful wave of dipper qi emerged and swallowed them

“Enemy... Enemy attack!” A scream came from an expert from the Moyun Sect and alerted half the gathering grounds.

Chapter 992: No One’s Gonna Catch Me Today

Who the hell had the guts to sneak attack the Moyun Sect in the gathering grounds of the Spirit Mammoth World?!

Clamor broke out among the experts in the gathering point. At least 8 Martial Dipper Realm experts rose into the air from various directions and stared at where the Moyun Sect was. However, not a single person moved to help them.

Catching them off guard, Shang Xia managed to scatter the inner qi of the second element Martial Dipper Realm expert who came to stop him earlier. Even though their dantian wasn't completely crippled, they definitely needed several months to recover. Whatever it was, they wouldn't be able to fight anytime soon.

The other expert who came to stop Shang Xia was at the third element of the Martial Dipper Realm. He was a lot more careful, but he wasn't able to escape from Shang Xia's wave of Five Element Dipper Qi. Fortunately, he didn't hesitate to split off a Fate Dipper Clone at the last second before retreating from the sea of energy.

Shang Xia was too lazy to care about them. He didn't even deal with the second element Martial Dipper Realm expert who lost his combat abilities. Instead, he rushed at the cave dwelling where Feng Fuzi was located.

Without turning his head, he yelled, "This is a grudge between the Moyun Sect and my Qingyun Sect! It has nothing to do with anyone else!"

Before entering the gathering point of the Spirit Mammoth World, Shang Xia learned a little about the powers of the Spirit Mammoth World. He understood that the Qingyun Sect was a large sect that was exterminated by the Moyun Sect 60 years ago. However, not everyone in the Qingyun Sect was slain and they had been accumulating their strength in the recent tens of years. They never gave up on their revenge against the Moyun Sect, but due to the Moyun Sect's increased pressure on the survivors in recent years, they became a lot less active.

Of course, that couldn't be a better chance for Shang Xia to fuck with them!

Indeed... With him yelling his 'identity', the experts who came to observe the battle scanned him once to learn that his aura was indeed from the Spirit Mammoth World before standing at the side to watch the show play out.

Shang Xia's understanding of the Spirit Mammoth World wasn't great and all he knew came from the casual conversations he had been hearing along the way. However, he believed that on a larger scale, there shouldn't be many differences in their internal dynamics compared to other worlds. There should be many experts willing to watch the experts of an Elysium run into trouble.

Whatever it was, it would be impossible for the Qingyun Sect to 'take revenge' on the Moyun Sect. However, it would be great if they caused trouble and weakened the experts of the Moyun Sect.

Not to mention the fact that the Moyun Sect was in the wrong in the first place. They destroyed the Qingyun Sect and it was only reasonable that they suffered retaliation from the experts of the dead faction.

However... There were several powers who quickly moved away after witnessing what happened. After all, the expert from the Qingyun Sect who was screaming for revenge seemed somewhat powerful.

After injuring 2 Martial Dipper Realm experts of the Moyun Sect, he started a sudden assault on one of their cave dwellings. No one was able to stop him as he charred his way over and in a split

second, the corpses of 2 Martial Extermination Realm experts from the Moyun Sect could be seen as they were too late to escape from the calamity that was Shang Xia! Another Martial Dipper Realm expert was crippled, and a fourth element Martial Dipper Realm expert of the Moyun Clan who came out to stop Shang Xia was forced away without injuries.

“This is getting interesting... I’m afraid the Moyun Sect is about to suffer a huge loss!”

“From the looks of it... Is that fellow going for Feng Fuzi?”

The number of Martial Dipper Realm experts in the area increased yet again. There were more than 10 of them at that point and they were watching the chaos unfold.

Silence fell when someone mentioned the name ‘Feng Fuzi’.

“The person didn’t make a second move against those he forced away... His target really seems to be Feng Fuzi!”

“What a joke! That fellow definitely thought that Feng Fuzi suffered some injuries in the battle in the West and came to take advantage of the situation... Heh, does he think the Moyun Sect is an easy target?”

There were some who expressed their disdain. Several days ago, Feng Fuzi brought several experts of the Moyun Sect back after an intense battle in the West. he brought back several precious treasures while he was at it. However, his injuries weren’t serious at all! He only expended some inner qi during the fight.

“Whatever it is, this is the best chance the Qingyun Sect is going to get.”

Someone else mumbled, “If Feng Fuzi is truly injured there’s no better time to attack. After all, everyone is out scouring the Azure Oddity World for treasures. We’re here because of our injuries or because we’re just too weak to take part in the battles going on. Even if he fails, he should be able to escape alive...”

After he spoke, he turned to look at everyone around before smiling, “Don’t you think we’re all too injured or exhausted to stop him if he tries to run?”

...

Shang Xia attacked too suddenly and he moved too quickly. No matter who came to stop him, Shang Xia didn’t waste time fighting them. He simply shoved them away!

The ‘Moyun Cave’ was his only target! To be more exact, his target was the owner of the Moyun Cave!

He had to be quick. He needed to deal with Feng Fuzi and obtain the treasure with the Spirituality of the West before escaping!

He wasn’t sure his disguise wouldn’t be seen through. After all, his aura disguise would only work when he wasn’t fighting! When he made his move earlier, he actually threw down several restrictions into the void to prevent the experts in the immediate surroundings from discovering his true aura.

The Moyun Sect was a faction that sent a True Immortal, and Feng Fuzi was an existence who had half a foot in the Martial Void Realm! He was definitely someone the Moyun Sect placed heavy emphasis on. Shang Xia didn't doubt for a second that the moment he called for help, the True Immortal would rush back to assist him!

Speed was of the essence. He had to be so fast that no one had the time to react! Before the True Immortal returned, he would have to achieve his goal and escape!

The Moyun Cave was close, and dense clouds emerged from its depths. Layers of restrictions appeared at the entrance to stop Shang Xia.

Even though the Moyun Sect decided to set up camp in the gathering point of the Spirit Mammoth World, they didn't exactly leave their camp wide open. How could they not have left any restrictions as a precaution?

Naturally, Shang Xia already expected as much. The moment the clouds emerged from the Moyun Cave, five colored light blossomed behind Shang Xia as they tore straight into the restrictions.

As the dense clouds were eaten away by the five colored light, the restrictions around the entrance lost their shine. It didn't take long for them to be weakened.

Rather than wait for Shang Xia to launch another attack on the restrictions, they were destroyed from the inside as a crane created by dipper qi burst out from the cave and rushed aggressively at Shang Xia.

"Hah! Thanks for coming out!" Shang Xia rejoiced when he saw the crane. Forming a seal with his hands, his Five Element Dipper Qi enveloped the crane as lightning fell from the clear skies above. His Five Element Dipper Qi contained in the lightning bolt tore the crane apart.

As the crane dispersed in a wave of clouds, a figure rushed out and appeared a mere 300 feet from Shang Xia.

A formless wind ripped the space around him apart and swallowed Shang Xia. The shattered space seemed to be blown around by the tornado that formed as it tried to slice Shang Xia into pieces.

It was the first time Shang Xia was feeling his Five Element Dipper Qi Protection Barrier being eaten away by his opponent's attack. Of course, the process was excruciatingly slow and Shang Xia stared as the other party tried to close in while attempting to suppress his Five Element Dipper Qi.

Is he... Is he overestimating himself?

Of course not. The other party just didn't know how powerful he was! When the attack appeared, Shang Xia determined that the person who emerged from the crane was Feng Fuzi. He was confident enough to rush up to Shang Xia because he had confidence in his martial intent! Also, the only people who had the time to unleash their martial intent on him had to be someone special!

Ever since Shang Xia reached his current level, it was his first time meeting an expert in the Martial Dipper Realm who could fight back to such an extent. A sudden urge to win rose in his heart when he noticed Feng Fuzi's extraordinary martial intent.

Amidst the tornado that contained spatial cracks, a speck of five colored light burst forth. It transformed into a giant ring before another one split off from it. Both rings started to spin in the air as they pushed back against the messy tornado around them.

That wasn't just a clash of martial intents! It was a contest between their understanding of the dao!

When a Martial Dipper Realm expert comprehended their martial intent, they would have reached a new level along the path they were walking. Naturally, the stronger their martial intent was, the higher their achievements in the dao.

In the instant their martial intents clashed, every Martial Dipper Realm cultivator in the gathering point turned their attention over. There were even some who overlooked the fact that Shang Xia's aura no longer belonged to someone from their Spirit Mammoth World!

As the five colored light increased in intensity, the power of Shang Xia's Five Element Annihilation Yin Yang Ring grew. From pushing the tornado back, it started to suppress Feng Fuzi's martial intent before crushing it completely!

The majestic Five Element Annihilation Yin Yang Ring destroyed the entire mountain along with his martial intent!

With his martial intent forcefully torn apart, Feng Fuzi suffered grave injuries. However, he definitely possessed enough strength to free himself.

The very instant his martial intent was destroyed, he discovered the intensity of the other party's offensive faltering slightly.

Actually... The reason he wasn't immediately killed was because Shang Xia didn't plan on following up on the offensive. When he shattered the mountain earlier, he discovered the treasure he was looking for.

Once he grabbed it, there was no point in staying and risking facing a True Immortal. Turning around, the five colored light erased every single spatial crack 100 feet around him before a spatial gate was created.

In front of the experts of the Spirit Mammoth World, the mysterious expert who charged at the Moyun Sect alone placed a single foot into the spatial gate.

"Who the hell are you?! Tell us your name!" Feng Fuzi, who finally discovered something off, yelled. Even he knew it was too late to stop the other party from leaving.

Turning to shoot him a cold glance, the corner of Shang Xia's lips curled upwards in a mocking sneer before he stepped into the spatial gate and disappeared from the gathering point.

Finally, someone who was watching the exchange yelled, "He doesn't seem to be someone from our world, right?"

"Obviously! He's not someone from the Azure Oddity World either! We've been had!"

Chapter 993: Kou Chongxue's Appearance

Shang Xia might have obtained victory against the grand completion stage Martial Dipper Realm expert from the Spirit Mammoth World and displayed the might of his martial intent, but it was true that he failed to kill his opponent during that short exchange.

Because of the situation earlier, he had to escape after obtaining the treasure he desired.

Since he burst forth with his full might in order to suppress his opponent, he was no longer able to keep his aura hidden. The sharper Martial Dipper Realm experts in the Spirit Mammoth World's gathering point had already discovered that he wasn't an expert from their world.

The only reason they didn't attempt to stop him or interfere earlier was because he was just too damn strong!

Of course, there were also some who just wanted to watch Feng Fuzi embarrass himself.

He understood that after causing such a huge commotion, there was actually no need for the rest of the cultivators to make a move. Their True Immortal was definitely alerted to what happened and it wouldn't take long for them to arrive.

Actually... It was fortunate he left so decisively. The second he disappeared, a powerful divine soul descended. A blurry figure clad in green hemp robes arrived.

"What happened here? Where's Feng Fuzi?" The elder's divine soul encompassed everything in the gathering point. Staring at the Moyun Cave that had been razed to the ground earlier, not a trace of emotions could be detected from the blurry figure.

"We greet True Immortal Yun Nuo!" The experts from the other factions greeted respectfully, even though they were shocked at how quickly he arrived.

True Immortal Yun Nuo obviously didn't personally appear at the gathering point. Instead, he sent a projection over. Regardless, it should be enough to deal with any unforeseen circumstances. Seeing as no one was answering his question, the blurry figure turned slightly to stare in a certain direction.

"Martial Ancestor!" A ray of light emerged and Feng Fuzi's dispirited expression could be seen. "Disciple was useless! I was sneak attacked by the mysterious expert and a batch of treasures I collected was ruined!"

"Oh? Sneak attacked?" True Immortal Yun Nuo glanced at him before muttering in an indifferent voice.

Feng Fuzi lowered his gaze again and sighed, "I was truly useless... I wasn't that person's match!"

True Immortal Yun Nuo didn't deny his point, but he didn't harp on it either. He simply asked, "Where is that person now? Why did he attack you?"

"Disciple doesn't know. When he arrived earlier, he called himself an expert from the Qingyun Sect who came to take revenge. However, he revealed his true aura during the exchange earlier and I can tell he isn't someone from our world. Other than the batch of treasures that had been destroyed, he probably took away a few other

things. If I'm not mistaken, he should have come for the treasures I obtained when exploring the West!" Feng Fuzi explained in a low voice.

Nodding slightly, True Immortal Yun Nuo knew that there wasn't anything else he could ask. "Your defeat should have given you a good wake up call. This experience might be good when you try to break through to the Martial Void Realm in the future. You're on your own now."

Feng Fuzi gave a deep bow in response. "Yes!"

By the time he raised his head again, True Immortal Yun Nuo's projection was nowhere to be seen. One of the disciples from the Moyun Sect hurriedly ran over to him and asked, "Senior brother, is the ancestor going to hunt that person down?"

The slightly fearful look on Feng Fuzi's face slowly disappeared and he returned to his usually cool appearance before muttering, "The ancestor probably wouldn't send his true body out for this..."

"Why not?" The disciple asked in shock.

Shooting him a glance, Feng Fuzi explained, "I'm afraid the various True Immortals who came are discussing the problem of how they should split up the World Origin of the Azure Oddity World. How can his true body leave at this critical juncture? At best, he'll send his projection over to investigate the matter..."

"That's good enough! The ancestor's projection is comparable to a True Immortal! Killing a mere expert at the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm wouldn't be a problem!" A look of joy appeared on the face of the expert who came to his side.

Feng Fuzi shot the disciple another glance and thought to himself, "*A mere expert at the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm? Wouldn't that make me mere garbage since I lost to him?*"

A cold snort left Feng Fuzi's lips before he made his way back to the collapsed Moyun Cave. He wanted to see if there was anything left, and he wanted to know what exactly the mysterious expert was after.

The disciple who stood beside him stared at Feng Fuzi's departing figure in shock. He didn't know why his senior brother became so angry suddenly, and he definitely didn't know that he had already pissed Feng Fuzi off to no end.

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Above where the heavenly screen of the Azure Oddity World used to be...

After Shang Xia swept up whatever treasures along with the item that contained the Spirituality of the West, he rushed out of the Azure Oddity World without a care in the world. He turned into a streak of light that shot into the depths of the sea of stars. At the same time, he didn't forget to disguise his aura.

As for Huang Yu who was recovering in the depths of some random mountain range... Shang Xia couldn't care about him in his current situation.

Fortunately, he entered the gathering point of the Spirit Mammoth World alone and he shouldn't drag Huang Yu into the mess he created. The Azure Oddity World was a powerful Azure World at the end of the day and it shouldn't be completely destroyed in a few days. Huang Yu should be able to recover a portion of his strength by then and he should be able to make his way back to Star Origin City with the wealth of experience he had.

After all... Shang Xia was about to be hunted down by a True Immortal. He was going to be in a much more dangerous situation than Huang Yu who was cultivating in seclusion.

Not too long after Shang Xia rushed out of the Azure Oddity World, dense clouds started to gather above where the heavenly screen used to be. It transformed into a blurry figure before rushing in the same direction Shang Xia left.

At the end of the day, Shang Xia still underestimated the ability of a True Immortal. He might have transformed his aura and would be able to escape from the pursuit the moment he got out of range of the True Immortal's divine soul, but that didn't mean that his tracks were completely erased when he ran.

True Immortal Yun Nuo was able to detect the faint spatial fluctuations when Shang Xia was making his escape and he managed to track him that way.

That was why Yun Nuo didn't start chasing after Shang Xia the moment he arrived at the gathering point and had time to chat with Feng Fuzi to find out what happened.

After rushing 2000 miles away, Shang Xia planned to open a spatial tunnel to run. However, due to the encirclement by the experts of the various worlds, they placed heavy restrictions on the space around the Azure Oddity World. Experts under the Martial Void Realm wouldn't dare to leap through the void, and Shang Xia felt that there would be True Immortals who would discover his presence even if he used his Five Element Space to escape. As such, he decided to fly through space until he got much further away.

As he made his escape, he felt clear spatial fluctuations coming from behind as a presence rapidly rushed in his direction.

With the speed at which the other party was rushing over, Shang Xia had an idea of who he might be facing. The restrictions placed by the various worlds might stop Martial Dipper Realm experts from traveling through the void, but they couldn't stop Martial Void Realm True Immortals in the slightest!

5000 miles away from where the heavenly screen of the Azure Oddity World used to be, Shang Xia felt the presence getting closer and closer.

Unwilling to give up just yet, Shang Xia increased his speed as he rushed further into space. He anxiously thought of a way to escape his current predicament.

However... No matter what method he could try, it seemed useless.

The person after him might be a projection of a True Immortal, but the moment he turned to make his move, he would definitely catch the attention of multiple True Immortals!

The Stone Rod he had hidden in his ear had already appeared in his hand as he tightened his grip on it. The moment he felt that there was no way to escape, he could only turn to fight.

7000 miles away... Shang Xia was more than halfway to the 10,000 mile mark, but he didn't dare to celebrate. He started to store his energy for a bitter battle.

8000 miles away... True Immortal Yun Nuo's divine soul arrived and started to suppress Shang Xia. The divine soul enveloped the space around Shang Xia, ensuring that even if Shang Xia leaped through the void, he would definitely be discovered by the True Immortal the moment he exited the void.

8500 miles... Shang Xia determined that there was no avoiding it any longer!

Turning around abruptly, the Holy Weapon in his hand shot out.

By then, he could already feel the presence of the True Immortal clad in green hemp robes dozens of miles away from him. He saw the other party's angular face, with small ears and short beard as the True Immortal's projection stepped out from the void.

The moment their gazes met, Shang Xia solidified his divine will and raised his Stone Rod.

The next second, he discovered that the True Immortal's projection wasn't moving at all. He simply shot Shang Xia a profound gaze before returning into the void to leave.

Bewildered by the interaction, Shang Xia froze in place as a multitude of thoughts ran through his mind.

"Where did you get that Holy Artifact anyway?" A voice rang beside his ears.

Turning around violently, the blood drained from Shang Xia's face. He stared into the void that was sparking nearby.

"What are you waiting for? If you don't leave now, the next person that comes for you probably won't be a mere projection!" The same voice rang in his mind again, this time in a soft chuckle.

A look of joy spread across Shang Xia's face as he recognized the person speaking. However, he gasped in disbelief, "Patriarch Kou?"

A wave of relief washed over him as he understood that he was no longer in danger. He turned into a streak of light that continued to rush to the 10,000 mile mark from where the heavenly screen was before arriving at the location he noticed Kou Chongxue.

"Patriarch Kou?" Shang Xia wondered out loud when he arrived.

"You're still too close. Get further away from the Azure Oddity World. The projection that returned will definitely inform the rest about your presence. They'll definitely be looking for you in a bit..." Kou Chongxue's voice continued to ring beside his ears, but the man couldn't be seen anywhere.

Seemingly having realized something, Shang Xia nodded before releasing his Five Element Dipper Qi to form the Five Element Space around him. A spatial gate was created and he stepped into it to disappear completely.

“This brat... He’s really careful!” Kou Chongxue’s laughter rang in the void. The spot where Shang Xia created the spatial gate earlier started to collapse before turning into a region of chaos to prevent anyone from tracking the spatial fluctuations.

When Shang Xia emerged from the void, he was more than 10,000 miles away. However, he didn’t stop there. He created another spatial tunnel and repeated the process 4 more times while changing directions intermittently. Only when he traveled another 7000 miles did he stop. He had passed even the furthest camp established by the various worlds.

Not too long after he stopped, Kou Chongxue stepped out from the void.

“Where’s Huang Yu?”

Chapter 994: End of the Show

“Where’s Huang Yu? Why are you alone?”

“Patriarch, why are you here?!”

Both of them basically threw out their questions the moment they met.

Shang Xia was the first to respond. “Patriarch Kou, Senior Huang Yu is still in the Azure Oddity World. He’s in a safe place, recovering his inner qi. His identity has not been revealed!”

Kou Chongxue nodded once before he continued to ask, “What’s the matter with you then? Where did you get this Holy Artifact? How did you anger the True Immortal from the Spirit Mammoth World?”

“Patriarch, do you know who it was? The person who was chasing me earlier should be a projection, right?” Shang Xia asked curiously.

With a smile that wasn’t really a smile, Kou Chongxue muttered, “There’s no need to use such a roundabout way to get an answer from me. I’ve been watching as the various worlds try to split the Azure Oddity World up. I learned the identities of the True Immortals of those worlds after watching them for a bit...”

“Patriarch Kou, did you reveal yourself when you scared the True Immortal from the Moyun Sect away earlier?” Shang Xia didn’t stop pushing for an answer.

Finally, Kou Chongxue replied, “That person who was chasing you should be True Immortal Yun Nuo from the Moyun Sect. I didn’t reveal myself earlier, but I’m pretty sure he guessed my identity which was why he turned to leave.”

Even though what Kou Chongxue said sounded a little contradictory, Shang Xia could understand what the patriarch was trying to say. He gasped softly, “Don’t tell me... Don’t tell me you caused big trouble while hiding yourself... Back then, I heard that a True Immortal from the offensive side was slain by True Immortal Zhuang from the Azure Oddity World. Were you the one behind it?”

Halfway through his sentence, Shang Xia’s eyes widened in shock as he thought back to what Huang Yu said when they first entered the world.

... That old man might just be hiding in some stupid corner over here watching the world burn... He’s probably going to pop out at the last moment and give everyone a huge surprise. Don’t you

know? The Triple Frost of the You Continent got their name from being assassins. Can you imagine Kou Chongxue as an assassin?

Kou Chongxue side-eyed Shang Xia and mumbled, “What? You actually guessed it right?”

Shang Xia sucked in a cold breath in shock. “Are you serious? Were you really the one behind it?!”

“Heh, I just decided to work together with True Immortal Zhuang who was about to die anyway. He was willing to be bait as he lured Shen Bihuan of the Spirit Abundance World to make the first move. I managed to heavily injure that Pagoda Master when that happened and Shen Bihuan was eventually killed by True Immortal Zhuang. During the process, True Immortal Zhuang was heavily injured. Even though he’s running around now, he wouldn’t be able to hold on for much longer.” Kou Chongxue might have described everything simply, but Shang Xia felt his heart trembling while listening to the entire process.

After being dumbfounded for some time, Shang Xia couldn’t help but ask, “So... What do you plan to do next? Are you going to help True Immortal Zhuang?”

Kou Chongxue’s gaze changed as he looked at Shang Xia as though he was looking at an adorably stupid creature he didn’t really dislike. “Do you think the True Immortals from the various worlds are dumb? True Immortal Zhuang is able to last so long because they’re using him as reverse bait. They’re waiting for me to act again and jump head-first into their trap!”

Pausing a little, he eventually continued, “This is pretty much all this old man can do. I can’t influence the existence of the Azure Oddity World... The only reason I made a move earlier was because of the enmity between our Spirit Luxuriant World and the Spirit Abundance World. Shen Bihuan tried to scheme against this granddaddy back then in the Star Relay and since they’re playing dirty, why shouldn’t I fuck with them?”

Shang Xia wanted to continue asking, but Kou Chongxue was too annoyed to continue the topic. Instead, he asked, “Brat, stop this nonsense. I asked you several questions earlier but you haven’t answered any of them! You’ve been asking non-stop...”

Shang Xia chuckled in amusement before recounting everything that happened after he met Huang Yu in the Star Origin City when he first arrived.

He went into great detail, especially the part regarding the Heavenly Lake Elysium. He also gave Kou Chongxue his conjecture about the Frost Wave before speaking about everything that transpired in the Azure Oddity World.

Of course, he didn’t say anything about using the Crimson Soul Tablet to absorb world origin from the Heavenly Lake Elysium back then. He simply pushed the blame to Lou Yi before explaining how he angered a True Immortal and failed his ascension.

Furthermore, he spoke about how he heard from the experts of the other regions that the 9 great powers of the Spirit Abundance World were plotting against a mysterious world.

The Crimson Soul Tablet was Shang Xia’s greatest secret and he wouldn’t reveal its existence even to those closest to him!

Kou Chongxue stared at Shang Xia with a look of admiration. “Which means... You not only watched how someone failed the ascension to the Martial Void Realm... You even stole a Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar and forced a newly ascended True Immortal to sacrifice herself to fuse with an Elysium to prevent it from destruction, effectively turning her into someone who can never leave the Elysium again... Then, you killed Zhao Wuhen’s projection while discovering the presence of a mysterious world that the 9 great powers of the Spirit Abundance World were plotting against. That’s not all. You even gathered the Four Extremity Spiritualities in the Azure Oddity World?!”

When Shang Xia was recounting his experience, he didn’t think that he did that much. However, after hearing a summary from Kou Chongxue, he realized that actually went through a lot!

Watching how Shang Xia’s jaws were about to drop when he realized what he achieved, Kou Chongxue snorted in disdain, “This old man thought that I did enough by finding an opportunity to cause the death of a True Immortal from the Spirit Abundance World! Who would have thought that your achievements would be much more terrifying than mine?!”

Shang Xia chuckled in response, “I can’t compare myself to you! All I did was make use of favorable conditions... It’s nothing compared to how you caused the death of a True Immortal! After he spoke, he handed the Stone Rod to Kou Chongxue. “Patriarch Kou, take a look at this. This is the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar I got my hands on!”

Kou Chongxue received the rod casually and glanced at Shang Xia from the corner of his eye. “Enough with your bootlicking. This old man hasn’t gotten muddle-headed to the point where you can smoke me with this nonsense. Anyway... Is this really the Heavenly Lake Elysium’s Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar? Did you really fully refine it?!”

Obviously, he completed the refinement... How else was he supposed to bring it out of the Elysium?

However, there was something else that could actually happen for him to be able to do so. Actually... He would be able to remove the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar from the Elysium if he received full recognition of the Holy Artifact Spirit from the very beginning. However, Shang Xia wasn’t able to do so and took some time before getting the Holy Artifact Spirit to acknowledge him.

Back when Kou Chongxue located the Stellar Cauldron, he managed to quickly receive the recognition of the Holy Artifact Spirit! From that point alone, one could see how lucky Kou Chongxue was! He was so god damn lucky he should be the protagonist instead.

Kou Chongxue might have refined the Stellar Cauldron that was the Origin Holy Artifact, it was his first time seeing a Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar. As such, he couldn’t help but play with the Stone Rod with no intention of putting it down.

“Patriarch Kou... Disciple left the Five Element Ring for Teacher Chu... I don’t really have a weapon at the moment...” Shang Xia mumbled helplessly when he saw how Kou Chongxue was planning to pocket the item.

Physically looking down at Shang Xia, Kou Chongxue snorted, “Are you afraid this granddaddy here will steal your rod or something?”

Even as he said that, his gaze quickly returned to the treasure. Reluctantly tearing his gaze away, he tossed the Stone Rod back to Shang Xia.

Properly keeping the rod, Shang Xia burst into a smile. “Right, Patriarch Kou, of the Elysium Boundary Marker, Origin Holy Artifact, and the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar, we managed to obtain 2 of the 3! According to your plans, when should our Tongyou Paradise ascend into the Tongyou Elysium?”

A strange light flashed in Kou Chongxue’s eyes and he yelled suddenly, “Right! Your experience in the Heavenly Lake Elysium reminded me of something. Actually... When you enter the Martial Void Realm in the future, you have the ability to push the Tongyou Paradise into the Tongyou Elysium!”

Slightly taken aback, Shang Xia chuckled dryly, “Patriarch Kou... Don’t scare me. This isn’t funny at all!”

Was there a situation where a Holy Land could ascend into an Elysium while missing one of the 3 Holy Artifacts? Of course! It was close enough to the situation in the Heavenly Lake Elysium. The experience with True Immortal Tang Yu showed Shang Xia that as long as he fused with the Elysium, he would definitely be able to take the place of the Elysium Boundary Marker.

A cold snort left Kou Chongxue’s lips the next moment. “Since you don’t want to be turned into a part of the Elysium, get your ass back to the Spirit Luxuriant World and obediently prepare to ascend. Do you know how much trouble you caused this time? You basically poked a hole in the heavens here! God knows how many True Immortals have their eyes on your right now! You’re not allowed to take even half a step out of our Spirit Luxuriant World before you break through. Otherwise... I won’t be able to ensure your safety any longer!”

Shang Xia thought for a second and understood what Kou Chongxue said was true. Back in the Heavenly Lake Elysium, he had already entered True Immortal Chong Shan and True Immortal Su Kun’s blacklist. His impression in True Immortal Tang Yu’s eyes was way worse and she would stop at nothing to eat him alive. As for Zhao Wuhen whose projection had been shattered by Shang Xia, the grudge had formed a long time ago back during the invasion of the Spirit Luxuriant World. In the Azure Oddity World, he killed True Immortal Yi’s direct disciple before stealing treasures from the Moyun Clan and embarrassing True Immortal Yun Nuo...

Even if they didn’t count those who wanted Shang Xia dead for other reasons, he already thoroughly offended 6 True Immortals! More importantly, every single one of them came from a different faction! Was there a faction in powerful worlds like theirs that didn’t have more than 1 True Immortal? With the exception of True Immortal Tang Yu, most of them probably had other experts at that level!

Not many Martial Dipper Realm experts could piss so many True Immortals off at once and still roam about freely. Actually... There was probably only a single person who could do something like that...

Perspiration soaked Shang Xia’s clothes after thinking about all the grudges he made along the way.

“Patriarch Kou, you’re absolutely right! I can’t wait to head back to enter secluded cultivation. So... Shall we go back now?” Huang Yu was the last thing Shang Xia was thinking about at that moment. That slippery asshole was a veteran spy anyway. As long as he wasn’t killed by a single slap, he could probably find a way to survive. Moreover... it shouldn’t take long for him to live a pretty comfortable life!

“Nah. There’s no need to rush. This granddaddy here is going to bring you to watch the curtains close on this amazing show!” Kou Chongxue muttered calmly all of a sudden.

“The show is ending?!” Shang Xia muttered to himself. After making some connections, he mumbled, “Is it related to True Immortal Zhen? Patriarch Kou, wouldn’t this be a little too dangerous? If those people discover us...”

Kou Chongxue waved his hands casually in response. “Relax. I discussed this with True Immortal Zhuang beforehand. No one will notice us.”

After he spoke, Shang Xia felt the void around him acting a little strangely. He suddenly felt himself separated from the space around him.

Turning to look at Kou Chongxue, Shang Xia saw the patriarch taking a single step before everything around him started to spin. By the time his surroundings returned to normal, he discovered that they were far from where they were. Instead, they seemed to have entered some sort of foreign region in space...

Chapter 995: Final Battle

The Spirit Abundance World was the Spirit Luxuriant World’s mortal enemy at that point, and killing an expert from the Spirit Abundance World had already weakened them considerably. However... Who the hell was Kou Chongxue?

True Immortal Zhuang might be on his last legs, but Kou Chongxue wouldn’t give up any chance to gain even a little more advantage...

“So... You not only obtained a method of cultivation in the Martial Void Realm from him, but you also made him do something to himself that will allow you to observe his final stand?” Shang Xia wondered out loud while staring at Kou Chongxue with an incredulous look. He couldn’t help but continue asking, “Do you really have no way to help him leave? A living True Immortal who holds endless hatred for the worlds that invaded the Azure Oddity World might be able to draw their attention away and buy us even more time...”

“Do you think the experts of the Azure Oddity World wouldn’t know that the various worlds would have set their sights on the Azure Oddity World after Meng Yuanxiu’s injury in the Star Relay?” Kou Chongxue sneered.

“Oh.” Shang Xia grunted once before staying silent. After the incident, Meng Yuanxiu and True Immortal Zhuang probably knew that they would be targeted by the various worlds. However, they didn’t choose to escape.

Glancing at Shang Xia, Kou Chongxue continued, “That begs the question... We can disregard Meng Yuanxiu as he can’t leave his Elysium, but why didn’t True Immortal Zhuang escape?”

“Yeah... Why didn't he run?” Shang Xia was curious, but he didn't know the reasoning behind it.

Kou Chongxue continued, “That's because it doesn't matter if it's True Immortal Zhuang or myself. Perhaps, most True Immortals who didn't use the help of an Elysium to leave would also feel the same way. We might not be confined to our world, but we're deeply influenced by it. If our world no longer exists, we'll lose the ability to utilize the power of the world! A True Immortal who isn't able to use the power of the world...”

Chuckling softly, Kou Chongxue turned to look at Shang Xia. “... Do you think a True Immortal who isn't able to use the power of a world will be able to defeat a monster like you?”

With a trace of humility, Shang Xia mumbled, “They're still True Immortals in the Martial Void Realm...”

Kou Chongxue didn't respond immediately. Instead, he stared into the depths of the sea of stars and sighed, “He won't be able to escape. Without the Azure Oddity World as his foundation, his Void Origin wouldn't be able to deploy the power of a world. He wouldn't even be able to hide himself in the sea of stars! Rather than turn into a human target who gets tortured to death, he might as well go out with a bang!”

Shang Xia couldn't help but ask, “Patriarch Kou, would True Immortals really be unable to rid themselves of the shackles of the world? Wouldn't that mean that every True Immortal is bound to their world in some sense? What about the True Immortals of the Star Origin City? Where would they be bound to?”

“Do you think I know something like that?” Kou Chongxue snorted with disdain.

Shang Xia stared at the patriarch, dumbfounded by the response. He didn't know what to say.

Then again... How long had Kou Chongxue entered the Martial Void Realm?

“Anyway, I might not know about the True Immortals of the Star Origin City, but I do know that if a True Immortal wants to get rid of the binding to their world, they would have to reach the fourth tier Martial Void Realm at the very least!” Kou Chongxue explained.

“Fourth tier of the Martial Void Realm?!” Shang Xia mumbled softly to himself.

He instantly thought back to Zhuge Xiang, the Star Origin Guard Commander! He was an expert at the fourth tier Martial Void Realm, and it was the only expert Shang Xia knew at that level.

Kou Chongxue spoke again, “Have you thought about it? How many fourth tier True Immortals have you seen? How could worlds like the Spirit Mammoth World and the Spirit Abundance World be at the peak of the Spirit World level if they didn't have existences at that level?”

“Where are those experts then?” Shang Xia asked.

Shaking his head, Kou Chongxue sighed, “True Immortal Zhuang once had a guess. Since they were able to rid themselves of the shackles of their world, they should be able to create a world of their own with their Void Origin. They definitely possessed the qualifications to enter a higher world or touch onto the existence of a higher level...”

“Which would mean... One would only understand when they reach that level?” Shang Xia frowned and fell deep in thought.

“Yeah, probably.” Kou Chongxue glanced at Shang Xia with a strange gaze. The next second, he jolted back to attention. “They found him!”

Shang Xia turned serious immediately. He would be spectating the battle with Kou Chongxue, but that was the final stand of a Marital Void Realm True Immortal they were talking about! It was difficult to relax in such a situation.

Kou Chongxue formed a sword seal with his hands, and Shagn Xia could clearly feel the sword qi created from his Void Origin forming a curtain before him. The next moment, a different location in space could be seen on the sword curtain.

“Is that True Immortal Zhuang’s visual angle?” Shang Xia couldn’t help but ask.

“Visual angle?” Kou Chongxue thought for a second and muttered, “Yeah, that sounds appropriate. However, we’re not looking through True Immortal’s eyes at the moment. Instead, we’re seeing the battle through something he made...”

Shang Xia noticed the angle changing again as at least 4 True Immortals arrived.

There was no doubt about it. True Immortal Zhuang was completely surrounded.

“True Immortal Zhuang, are you really not willing to tell us the identity of the person who helped you kill True Immortal Shen?” An indistinct voice rang through the void.

Shang Xia couldn’t help but turn to look at Kou Chongxue. However, he saw the patriarch staring at the sword curtain without a change in expression. It was clear he wasn’t afraid his identity would be revealed.

“Hehe, all of you have been hesitating to make a move because you’re waiting for that person to appear so you can trap him, right? Sorry to disappoint. Actually, even I have no idea who he is. He never showed himself and from the way things are looking, I doubt he’s going to appear.” A slight out-of-breath voice came through the sword curtain. It most likely came from True Immortal Zhuang.

“Looks like rumors going around about you having your differences with True Immortal Meng Yuanxiu aren’t false. Otherwise, he would have been willing to hand you the Origin Holy Artifact of his Yuanxiu Elysium. Even if your Azure Oddity World is destroyed, you would still be able to escape...” A different voice came from the void.

When True Immortal Zhuang stared in that direction, Kou Chongxue snorted. “That’s probably True Immortal Fei Zhang from the Spirit Mammoth World.”

In the Star Relay, Kou Chongxue exchanged some pointers with True Immortal Fei Zhang and he recognized the man.

However, Shang Xia's attention clearly wasn't placed on the identity of the expert who spoke. Instead, he asked hastily, "Patriarch Kou, didn't you hear that? Wouldn't you be able to escape the shackles of the world with the Origin Holy Artifact?"

Kou Chongxue's expression sank instantly. "Oh really? Do you think I should leave and let our Spirit Luxuriant World be wiped out or do you think our Tongyou Paradise should just throw away the chance to become an Elysium?"

It was true that Kou Chongxue would be able to maintain the fighting strength of an expert at the Martial Void Realm with the Origin Holy Artifact. However, he would need to bring the Stellar Cauldron everywhere he went. The Tongyou Paradise wouldn't be able to use it to ascend into an Elysium that way!

Laughing in embarrassment, Shang Xia mumbled, "Of course not! Never mind what I said, it's a bad idea..."

True Immortal Zhuang's voice rang through the sword curtain once again. However, there seemed to be a trace of mockery this time. "All of you schemed against him to damage his Formation Divine Artifact. If not for that, his Yuanxiu Elysium would be in a perfect state... If he gave away the Origin Holy Artifact, how was he supposed to kill Yong Si?"

Shang Xia heard something new from what he said. It seemed as though the rank six Formation Grandmaster's formation's core seemed to be the Yuanxiu Elysium. That would explain why he couldn't hand the Holy Artifacts of the Elysium to anyone else. The moment he gave any of them to True Immortal Zhuang, it would be possible for True Immortal Zhuang to escape into the vast sea of stars, but the Azure Oddity World would have been conquered way faster than it had been.

True Immortal Zhuang and True Immortal Meng were both experts of the Azure Oddity World, but they didn't come from the same faction; Instead, they seemed to be at odds with each other.

Even in times of disaster when their world was on the verge of destruction, it would be hard for them to put away their enmity and sacrifice everything to let the other escape.

The voice of yet another True Immortal arrived suddenly. It seemed to confirm everything Shang Xia had been thinking of. "Hmph. True Immortal Yu Ji was too weak to begin with. I'm afraid Meng Yuanxiu probably forced her ascension in order to take the place of the Origin Holy Artifact... It's a shame, we reacted too quickly. Moreover, your True Immortal Yu Ji seemed unwilling to be a part of his plan and was eventually killed outside the Yuanxiu Elysium. Maybe... Maybe Meng Yuanxiu really gave you the Origin Holy Artifact! If I'm not mistaken, the entire thing has been carefully planned out by the 2 of you!"

True Immortal Zhuang's gaze shifted to the final True Immortal who hadn't said anything. He stayed silent for a little longer than usual before finally speaking. "Brother Xiao, how much stronger is your Azure Qing World compared to us? Since True Immortal Yong Si of the Azure Beginning World has fallen, haven't you learned your lesson?"

True Immortal Zhuang was clearly trying to sow discord among the True Immortals. He pointed out how the Spirit Worlds were using the opportunity to weaken the Azure Worlds. As for the point of that... The destruction of the Azure Oddity World was the perfect example of their schemes!

After some time, True Immortal Xiao Yugang's voice eventually rang in their ears. "With the benefits we gain from your Azure Oddity World... Our Azure Qing World wouldn't be far from becoming a Spirit World..."

"I understand." True Immortal Zhuang sighed softly before glancing at all 4 of them. He also stared at the existences who were hidden deeper in the void before roaring with laughter, "Since we can't change the ending, let me fight to my heart's content! Fellow cultivators, who's going to be the first to face me?!"

None of the 4 fought for the chance to fight him first. After all, they knew that True Immortal Zhuang had no way out. He was a cornered beast with nothing to lose. The first person to fight him would most likely face the strongest and most crazed retaliation True Immortal Zhuang could muster.

All of them present were confident of taking down the already heavily injured True Immortal Zhuang, but if they were heavily injured by some freak accident, or if True Immortal Zhuang was still hiding his final trump cards... Their losses would never be able to make up for their gains.

After all, True Immortal Zhuang's conversation with True Immortal Xiao was still fresh in their ears. No one wanted to fall for the schemes of others.

Seeing the looks of hesitation on their faces, True Immortal Zhuang roared with laughter once again. "Since none of you are willing to make the first move, I'll help you decide!"

The scene in the sword curtain started to twist as space was forcefully destroyed in the region. A burst of gray light filled the sword curtain as Shang Xia instinctively turned to Kou Chongxue for an explanation.

"This is a raw battle of Void Origin among Martial Void Realm experts. You can understand it as them creating a domain around themselves and smashing it into the domain of another Martial Void Realm expert. They would try to overpower each other's domain with raw power!"

Chapter 996: The End?

The battle among True Immortals on the sword curtain gave Shang Xia a massive visual impact, and even his divine will was somewhat affected.

Kou Chongxue muttered at the side, "This is an extremely rare chance for you to watch a battle between True Immortals and understand the way they fight!"

Shang Xia might have observed the battle above the Star Relay and lasted till the end, but the various sides were holding back during the battle there for fear of offending Zhuge Xiang. There were only 2 true exchanges there. They couldn't go all out and kill their target like what they were doing now!

Also, Shang Xia might have observed the battle that happened at the Star Relay, but the shockwaves of the battle were controlled. If he stood beside the battlefield where True Immortal Zhuang and the others were fighting at the moment without restraint, he would probably be wiped out by the shockwaves of the battle!

The place he and Kou Chongxue were observing the battle through the sword curtain was probably tens of thousands of miles away from the true battlefield, and Kou Chongxue even used the sword curtain to weaken any effect the battle would have on Shang Xia's divine will. As such, he would be able to watch the battle in detail!

That was a valuable experience Shang Xia would be able to gain while preparing to enter the next level.

“Of the 4 True Immortals who have surrounded True Immortal Zhuang, you should have seen True Immortal Xiao Yugang before. The others are True Immortal Fei Zhang from the Spirit Mammoth World, True Immortal Mi Wu from the Spirit Abundance World, and True Immortal Liu Xiangchuan of the Azure Wind World.”

Kou Chongxue introduced those True Immortals and gave Shang Xia a simple rundown of their strength and abilities. He also informed Shang Xia about their subtle relationship.

“What we can be sure of right now is that True Immortal Xiao Yugang and True Immortal Mi Wu have been working together quite frequently. Their relationship seems pretty good and the Azure Qing World seems to be trying to get on the Spirit Abundance World's good side. As for True Immortal Liu Xiangchuan of the Azure Wind World, he seems to be backing True Immortal Fei Zhang up wherever they go. From the looks of it, they seem to be colluding with each other...”

“Getting closer to the Spirit Abundance World? Collusion with each other?!” Shang Xia gasped. “Aren't those Azure Worlds afraid of inviting the wolf into their homes? The Spirit Mammoth World and the Spirit Abundance World are standing at the peak of Spirit Worlds. They might just lack the world origin of a single Azure World to ascend...”

Kou Chongxue shook his head while sighing, “Who knows... Perhaps, both Azure Worlds have methods of self-preservation and maybe those Spirit Worlds won't be able to ascend to an Essence World by devouring an Azure World. Maybe we're just wrong?”

Shang Xia also shook his head slowly before turning his attention back to the sword curtain.

True Immortal Zhuang had been in dire straits even before the battle broke out, but those surrounding him seemed a little hesitant to deal the killing blow. All of them were afraid True Immortal Zhuang would ignore everyone else and sacrifice himself to drag them down with him when they moved in for the kill.

“Are they planning to exhaust True Immortal Zhuang?” Shang Xia asked.

A sneer left Kou Chongxue's lips in response, “Those clowns are hiding their true intentions.”

“Patriarch Kou, in a battle between True Immortals, does everything just boil down to their Void Origin?” Shang Xia asked suddenly.

After thinking for some time, Kou Chongxue replied, “Void Origin is the source of our strength, but we naturally rely on our skills and martial arts when fighting. It's just that after entering the Martial

Void Realm, our Void Origin is able to create a version of the world, and other than using it to create projections, we are able to produce a domain that contains our will. In our domains, our strength will be greatly enhanced and that is why any battle between experts in the third tier Martial Void Realm and below would usually involve suppressing the other party's domain before the real battle begins."

Shang Xia noticed how Kou Chongxue mentioned the part about battles between experts 'in the third tier Martial Void Realm and below' and he quickly followed up with a question. "What are the cultivation levels of those in the Martial Void Realm then? Would that mean that they are split into first, second, and third tier Martial Void Realm experts and those of the fourth tier and above?"

Kou Chongxue seemed a little helpless as he tried to explain what he knew so far. "Zhang Xuansheng, Li Jidao, and Yang Taihe have already stepped into the second tier of the Martial Void Realm, but all 3 of them seem to describe the classification of experts in the Martial Void Realm differently. Perhaps, all of them aren't clear about what it is either. Of course, they might just be unwilling to share what they know. Whatever it is, the higher one's cultivation gets in the Martial Void Realm, the stronger their Void Origin would become and the power of their domains!"

He couldn't help but turn to stare at Shang Xia from the corner of his eye after speaking up to that point. "Right. Speaking of domains, I thought about that strange separate space you can create with your inner qi. You seem to have already come into contact with the power of domains... Your Five Element Space can be considered an elementary domain..."

A look of shock slowly appeared on Shang Xia's face. "Really?"

Shaking his head slowly, Kou Chongxue sighed, "I have no idea how you did it, but I've seen your Five Element Space for myself. It definitely possesses the ability of a domain..."

"... Heh, when this old man was still in the Martial Dipper Realm, I gained some inspiration from your Five Element Dipper Qi and tried to do something similar. However, I was unable to create the Five Element Space like you're able to! Did you hide something when teaching me how to utilize the five elements back then?!" Kou Chongxue snorted suddenly.

Naturally, Shang Xia knew that Kou Chongxue wasn't actually blaming him. He burst out laughing in amusement the next second. "I didn't hide anything regarding the principles of the five elements! However, I didn't refine 5 fate dippers in the Five Element Realm. Instead, I refined 10 of them. That might be why I'm able to do things you can't... You know this!"

Kou Chongxue grunted once before he continued, "Maybe it has something to do with my way of cultivation. I was able to use the properties of the five elements to maintain the balance between my fate dippers back then but was unable to accomplish what you mentioned about their mutual restraint and propagation. As for your method of refining fate dippers of the five dippers of both the yin and yang alignment... I'm afraid you're the only person who can do something like that. That might be the real foundation of comprehending a domain..."

He couldn't help but feel a little depressed all of a sudden. "From the looks of it, this is something deeply rooted into one's cultivation philosophy. It's something that you have already assimilated to your very bones and soul... It's going to be extremely difficult to get anyone to follow the same path

as you. I'm afraid it's going to be impossible in the Tongyou Institution at the very least. Unless you start everything from scratch and create..."

Shang Xia felt his heart lurching and a trace of anxiety and interrupted Kou Chongxue before he could finish. "Wait, wait, wait! Patriarch Kou, stop right there! I'm not going to set up another institution!"

"Well, whatever. As long as you leave behind your inheritance, it should be good enough. As for stuff like comprehending how to create a domain, it's not something many people can come into contact with anyway. It's just something I said on a passing whim and it might be too demanding for now."

Shang Xia heaved a sigh of relief. However, he couldn't help but add with a soft uneasy chuckle, "Patriarch Kou, you can rest assured that I won't forget my duties as a teacher of the institution. I won't hide anything intentionally either. Let's just not talk about creating my own school of thought or breaking off to form another institution in the future..."

"Heh, slippery kid..." Kou Chongxue snorted once while glancing at him from the corner of his eye. Seeing as the topic was closed, he turned back to the sword curtain. A soft sigh left his lips, "True Immortal Zhuang won't be able to last for too much longer. He has no choice but to choose one of them to attack. I just don't know which unfortunate fellow will be his target..."

As soon as the words left his lips, the 4 of them made their move.

Shang Xia could clearly 'see' the domain around True Immortal Zhuang expanding rapidly as it shook off the suppression.

"Who is he going to choose?" Shang Xia couldn't help but ask.

The scene in the sword curtain changed again and Shang Xia could see a blood-red mist surrounding True Immortal Zhuang as his Void Origin started to collapse. The next image that was shown in the sword curtain was a ball of purple light.

"He actually chose Xiao Yugang of the Azure Qing World!" Kou Chongxue recognized the target immediately. However, he sounded a little shocked at the discovery.

Shang Xia didn't understand what was going on and he asked, "It seems expected of him to attack Xiao Yugang. After all, from their conversation earlier, True Immortal Zhuang and True Immortal Xiao didn't seem to be on bad terms. For True Immortal Xiao to take part in this final battle... Wouldn't it be seen as a betrayal to True Immortal Zhuang?"

Kou Chongxue didn't follow up with anything. Instead, he continued to stare into the sword curtain.

The distance between True Immortal Zhuang and True Immortal Xiao rapidly shortened and even Shang Xia felt a strange sensation when seeing them moving so quickly.

The next second... Kou Chongxue's eyes widened and he gasped softly, "That really happened..."

Shang Xia felt a sharp pain in his eyes as he quickly circulated his Five Element Dipper Qi to protect them. Forcing them open, he tried to see what happened through the sword curtain.

The dark purple light that surrounded True Immortal Xiao Yugang was nowhere to be seen all of a sudden. Instead, Shang Xia found himself staring at the ball of light that shone like white jade where True Immortal Mi Wu was.

True Immortal Mi Wu probably came to help when True Immortal Zhuang rushed at True Immortal Xiao Yugang.

At the very last second, True Immortal Zhuang seemed to change his target as he released everything he had at True Immortal Mi Wu.

“I knew it!” True Immortal Mi Wu didn’t panic in the slightest.

A golden talisman turned to dust in True Immortal Mi Wu’s hand and their shattered domain started to recover. It attempted to suppress True Immortal Zhuang’s Void Origin.

Shang Xia’s gaze was immediately drawn to the talisman that was used and his heart pounded in his chest. *That’s a rank six talisman! It’s definitely a rank six talisman!*

At the same time, True Immortal Mi Wu yelled, “Hurry up and help!”

It was clear True Immortal Mi Wu was yelling at True Immortal Xiao Yugang.

Actually, when True Immortal Zhuang changed his target to True Immortal Mi Wu, True Immortal Xiao Yugang was already rushing over to support. However, he was unable to cross the space where their domains were crumbling.

The yell from True Immortal Mi Wu came too suddenly, and after hearing how he was being ordered around, True Immortal Xiao Yugang felt a trace of anger surging through his heart.

Before he could say anything, another voice arrived. “Right! We’re coming!” A figure rushed over from the side and perfectly blocked True Immortal Xiao Yugang’s way.

The figure who blocked him turned and chuckled softly, “True Immortal Xiao, you won’t be able to make it in time by flying so slow. Watch how this old man helps True Immortal Mi Wu!”

The domain around the newcomer expanded in a grand fashion the next second. It didn’t attempt to fuse with True Immortal Mi Wu’s domain to resist True Immortal Zhuang’s attack. Instead, it appeared behind True Immortal Zhuang to trap him completely.

“True Immortal Mi, I’m here to help!”

However... Did they really need to pincer True Immortal Zhuang who was already on his last legs?

True Immortal Xiao Yugang revealed a panicked look, but due to True Immortal Fei Zhang’s interruption earlier, he wasn’t able to rush over as quickly as he hoped. His domain was also unable to pass through the region controlled by True Immortal Fei Zhang to help True Immortal Mi Wu!

When True Immortal Fei Zhang interfered in his attempt to help True Immortal Mi Wu, True Immortal Xiao Yugang made a large detour in order to continue helping. With their speed, all it took was a blink of an eye for him to arrive.

Unfortunately, in an exchange between experts of their level, a lot of things could happen in the blink of an eye. The slight delay was enough to force True Immortal Mi Wu to take on True Immortal Zhuang’s final strike.

Everything Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue were seeing through the sword curtain was swallowed by chaotic light. They were unable to see what happened through the sword curtain, but their gazes seemed to pass through the screen completely as they stared in a certain direction in the void.

Chapter 997: Splitting the Loot

When True Immortal Zhuang's final strike landed on True Immortal Mi Wu, he was destroyed by the domains that enveloped him.

At the same time it happened, Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia turned to stare in a certain direction in the void.

In the depths of space, a powerful blast that seemed like the explosion of a mini sun appeared. Everything that was hundreds of thousands of miles around where True Immortal Zhuang fell was lit up, and the powerful light seemed to swallow the flickering stars all around.

Staring at the source of the light, Shang Xia didn't even blink.

The brilliant light filled the sea of stars for dozens of breaths of time before starting to fade. Eventually, everything returned to its original dusky color. The flickering of stars also returned.

Shang Xia couldn't help but ask, "Patriarch Kou, do you think that True Immortal Zhuang was able to injure True Immortal Mi Wu with that last strike?"

Kou Chongxue grunted once and seemed to fall into thought. In fact, he looked a little distracted.

A moment later, when Shang Xia was about to ask another question because of the lack of a proper answer, Kou Chongxue spoke suddenly, "I'm afraid true Immortal Zhuang already has an idea of who I am..."

Slightly taken aback, Shang Xia paused slightly before asking, "Do you mean... He chose to attack True Immortal Mi Wu because they come from the Spirit Abundance World?"

Kou Chongxue nodded and started to explain, "After killing Shen Bihuan, he should have noticed something during our short interaction. I can't be sure if he really learned about my identity, but the final strike he unleashed earlier was probably a gamble. To him, it doesn't matter who takes revenge on behalf of the Azure Oddity World. If he made the right choice, his gamble would pay off and he would be able to earn big! In the future, we might be able to take revenge in his stead!"

Shang Xia coughed dryly twice in a self-mocking laughter.

"What's the matter? Don't you believe in yourself?" Kou Chongxue glanced at him with an eyebrow raised.

Slowly rubbing his chin, Shang Xia mumbled, "That's not it. I'm just afraid it's going to take some time..."

Turning to stare into the void, Kou Chongxue's faint voice rang in Shang Xia's ears. "The Spirit Abundance World tried to focus on an expedition on the Azure Oddity World, but you and Huang Yu went in and made a mess of their Heavenly Lake Elysium. They lost a promising talent who would enter the Martial Void Realm during the process, and one of their True Immortals even became shackled to the Elysium. You destroyed another projection of the already heavily injured Zhao Wuhen, bringing him losses that would be difficult to recover from without ten or so years of cultivation. They lost another True Immortal during their invasion of the Azure Oddity World, and

now, another is most likely going to suffer heavy injuries. The Spirit Abundance World lost the fighting strength of 5 True Immortals in a short period of time! How much do you think they will be able to gain from their expedition to the Azure Oddity World this time? Do you think it's enough to replenish the losses they suffered?"

Shang Xia blinked once and gasped out loud. "Now that I think about it... Didn't the Spirit Abundance World make a massive loss during this expedition to the Azure Oddity World?!"

Kou Chongxue chuckled in response, "With how much they suffered, the plans of the Spirit Abundance World would be stretched thin. The gap in their high-level combat strength will definitely bring them a lot of trouble, and they probably wouldn't be able to focus on their schemes against us for the time being. At the very least, they wouldn't be able to initiate any attack on our Spirit Luxuriant World!"

Shang Xia knew that even though Kou Chongxue said so much, it was actually a reminder for him not to be careless. Moreover, the relationships between the Azure and Spirit Worlds were revealed during the battle earlier.

"Let's go. The last thing we'll have to see is the end of the Azure Oddity World and while we're at it, we can take a look at how they plan to split the world up..." Kou Chongxue mentioned.

With the death of True Immortal Zhuang, there was nothing in the Azure Oddity World that could even remotely threaten the various worlds. All of them had nothing else to worry about as they split up the spoils of their war.

Even though the Azure Oddity World was an Azure World that was slightly above average and those Spirit Worlds would barely benefit from devouring them, the same couldn't be said for those Azure Worlds.

It would actually greatly increase their foundations after they absorbed the world origin of the Azure Oddity World!

Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue returned to the void somewhere close to 30,000 miles from the Azure Oddity World to watch its fate unfold.

They saw how the experts of the various worlds started to retreat from the surface of the world and after half a month, the True Immortals also left.

That was also around the time when Huang Yu left the Azure Oddity World and managed to contact Shang Xia with a secret transmission method. Rushing over to where Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue were, the 3 of them finally met up.

Huang Yu's experience was something Shang Xia expected. Nothing special happened during the time he was recovering.

As they observed the end of the Azure Oddity World, Shang Xia carefully arranged the treasures he obtained from the Moyun Sect. Eventually, he brought out a rank five spiritual treasure that was some sort of essence metal.

Other than the essence metal that contained the Spirituality of the West, Shang Xia discovered a complete Origin Dipper, several random strands of fate dipper essence, and other spiritual treasures and herbs of varying ranks. He also obtained a pretty decent number of essence crystals.

With his experience traveling around the vast sea of stars and to the various worlds, he discovered that mid and high-grade essence crystals were what experts at their level used. It didn't matter if he was using it to trade with others, or to cultivate and restore his inner qi... mid to high-grade essence crystals could be used for everything! It could even be used to activate long-range spatial transfers. As such, mid and high-grade essence crystals had been pouring out of his inventory.

Kou Chongxue seemed to have noticed something as his gaze turned to the Azure Oddity World in the distance as he addressed the 2. "It's happening..."

Shang Xia and Huang Yu turned to look and they seemed to see the Azure Oddity World shaking once in the vast sea of stars.

When they thought they were mistaken, the Azure Oddity World crumbled.

Very quickly, they discovered that the destruction of the world didn't look like anything they had expected. Although there was tons of random nonsense that scattered into the void, the world seemed to be separated evenly into several large chunks.

That wasn't all. Shang Xia discovered that at some unknown time, the heavenly screen of the Azure Oddity World seemed to have restored itself, despite still being in a weakened state.

The heavenly screen that was restored started to split apart as it covered the land chunks that were splitting off and the sight reminded Shang Xia of the Manyu Continent.

Unable to contain his curiosity, Shang Xia turned to ask Kou Chongxue, "Did they split up the Azure Oddity World into several Barbaric Worlds?"

It was Kou Chongxue's first time seeing how a world was split up by the various powers, but he was a Martial Void Realm True Immortal at the end of the day. His insight wasn't something Shang Xia had and he nodded slowly in response. "From the looks of it, your description seems accurate. Every single Barbaric World should be controlled by a True Immortal. They should be in charge of maintaining the heavenly screen around their respective Barbaric World to protect it while also preventing any world origin from leaking."

Kou Chongxue sounded a little annoyed when talking about leaking world origin.

Shang Xia could basically guess what he was thinking about at the moment. It was probably because of how much was wasted when they obtained the Manyu Continent back then.

Due to their backward methods, the Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World's method of obtaining the Manyu Continent back then was too crude. More than a third of the world origin it contained was wasted!

If they used the same method those True Immortals were using...

"There's no need to keep thinking about it. This isn't something we would be able to do with all the True Immortals of our world shackled to their Elysiums anyway."

Huang Yu spoke suddenly.

Kou Chongxue shot him a frosty gaze all of a sudden, but Huang Yu didn't seem to give a shit.

In the past, the Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World only had 3 True Immortals. They were unable to leave their Elysiums, unlike the True Immortals they were looking at. As such, they were unable to maintain the Manyu Continent while bringing it back.

“Patriarch Kou, the Azure Oddity World is split into several parts... If we ignore the 4 largest chunks that would belong to the Spirit Worlds, there are still several smaller continents... Would we be able to bring it back to our world...”

“Don't bother... Does this look like their first time doing this? Do you think they'll leave such an obvious flaw you can take advantage of?” Huang Yu's voice came again, this time with a trace of mockery.

Kou Chongxue suddenly turned to Shang Xia to ask, “Look at him now. Don't you think this annoying fellow should continue to do his job and remain outside our Spirit Luxuriant World?”

Shang Xia nodded in agreement. “Fortunately, he doesn't seem to be planning to come back either. He plans to take up residence in the Star Origin City.”

“That's great! We can even think of ways to bring all the families he made over to him and get them to reunite!” Kou Chongxue continued.

After a short moment of contemplation, Shang Xia muttered, “Wouldn't that cause some trouble? What if we cause a huge ruckus because of this?”

Turning back to the Azure oddity World, Kou Chongxue's faint voice eventually rang in their ears. “Heh, I believe he'll be able to deal with it.”

At the side, Huang Yu's face seemed to be cramping as the corners of his lips twitched uncontrollably.

All of a sudden, the aura around Kou Chongxue changed. He seemed to have raised his guard as his gaze flickered between several positions in the void.

Shang Xia wanted to ask what was going on when at least 5 more True Immortals emerged from the void in all directions.

From the look on Kou Chongxue's face, those True Immortals who arrived definitely hadn't shown their faces before...

As soon as they emerged from the void, they rushed to the continents that split off to meet up with their fellow True Immortals. By that time, even more True Immortals had gathered and there were a total of 8 of them hovering around the continents. Splitting up into 4 pairs, they went to 4 relatively smaller continents. They started to escort the continents away, and the smaller continents would be sent to an Azure World that took part in the expedition.

Kou Chongxue, Shang Xia, and Huang Yu stared at the 4 smaller continents being sent away. Each one of them were sent through a spatial tunnel created and stabilized by 3 True Immortals.

Huang Yu suddenly spoke up again, “With 2 of them escorting the continent and 1 of them maintaining it from the inside, there won't be too many people who will dare to mess with them...”

Even though it sounded like he was chiding Shang Xia for his greed in stealing the smaller continents earlier, he was actually thinking about robbing those True Immortals along the way.

Turning to Shang Xia, Kou Chongxue snorted softly, “Damn it kid, you’re a real letdown! If you manage to break through, the 2 of us will most probably be able to rob one of those smaller continents along the way...”

This time, it was Shang Xia’s turn to feel his face cramping as the corners of his lips twitched involuntarily.

Watching them split up the Azure Oddity World without being able to do anything about it truly annoyed the 3 of them. It was no wonder they seemed to be in such bad moods and were throwing insults at each other.

Chapter 998: Lu Wuzi Ascends, Northern Sea Splits

From the looks of it, there were a total of 4 Spirit Worlds and 4 Azure Worlds who took part in the expedition against the Azure Oddity World.

Those worlds seemed to have reached an agreement with each other as the True Immortals from various sides helped each other. They sent 4 smaller continents to the Azure Worlds that took part in the expedition before returning to the destroyed Azure Oddity World to handle the 4 largest continents. Along the way, none of them tried messing with each other.

Kou Chongxue, Shang Xia, and Huang Yu could only watch as the 8 continents were brought away. Nothing was left for them to take advantage of.

As they made their way back, the atmosphere around them seemed a lot more muted.

The Spirit Luxuriant World might have reached the level of a Spirit World, but due to how newly they ascended, their foundations were far too shallow.

Even though it seemed like they had 5 True Immortals at the helm, 4 of them were chained to their Elysiums and couldn’t leave. Kou Chongxue was the only one who wasn’t restricted to the Spirit Luxuriant World. However, he also broke through recently and he was a mere first tier Martial Void Realm True Immortal...

Looking at the Azure Worlds who took part in the expedition, the Spirit Luxuriant World couldn’t even compare to those Azure Worlds who could send strong True Immortals over to take part in the invasion. In fact, even the exterminated Azure Oddity World had True Immortal Zhuang, an expert at the second tier Martial Void Realm, who could roam around the vast sea of stars.

Shang Xia’s thoughts suddenly returned to the 4 Martial Dipper Realm experts who left the Azure Oddity World on the dark gold flying ship and he decided to tell Huang Yu what he told them.

After hearing what Shang Xia said, their reactions seemed a little strange. The next moment, they ran over to the other side while whispering among themselves. They only stopped after half a day had passed.

With Shang Xia’s understanding of the 2, those troublemakers were most probably cooking up some sinister plan... Of course, he didn’t dare to interrupt their conversation.

After sending Huang Yu back to the Star Origin City, Shang Xia returned to the Spirit Luxuriant World with Kou Chongxue.

Half a year had passed since Shang Xia left for the Star Origin City to meet up with Huang Yu back then. He had been through many adventures since then, heading to the Spirit Abundance World and the Azure Oddity World right after. With the 3 years he spent in seclusion back in the Jiao Continent after the second invasion of the Spirit Abundance World failed, it was already the fifth year since the Spirit Luxuriant World completed its ascension!

Back when the worlds fused to form the Azure Ascension World, there had been many people who suggested getting rid of the Divine Martial Calendar and the Spirit Martial Calendar the words used to keep track of the time. They wanted to create another unified calendar for the Azure Ascension World.

Back then, the difference between experts of both worlds were still at a somewhat irreconcilable stage and it wasn't easy to agree on anything, with a unified calendar being the least of their concerns.

It didn't take the world too long to ascend into the Spirit Luxuriant World after the fusion, and with the experience of being invaded twice, experts from the Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World joined hands to fight the enemy. A sense of comradery was formed and differences that seemed impossible to work through were dissolved as they started to acknowledge each other better.

With the Spirit Luxuriant World finally taking shape, there was no longer any conflict about creating a unified calendar. The cultivation world immediately suggested the Spirit Luxuriant World's birth to be their history's epoch. Since its birth, 5 years had passed and they were currently in the 5th year of the Spirit Luxuriant Calendar!

Staring at the Spirit Luxuriant World from the depths of space, one would be able to discover the huge changes it experienced.

More than half a year ago, the asteroid belts, giant scattered landmasses from god knows where, and massive clouds of stardust started to gather around the Spirit Luxuriant World. Even though they hadn't reached the level where they would completely hide the heavenly screen, they still provided pretty good cover. Anyone who didn't know where the Spirit Luxuriant World was wouldn't be able to discover it when they were passing through the sea of stars. Even True Immortals weren't exceptions...

As Shang Xia continued to approach the Spirit Luxuriant World, he discovered the presence of defensive fortifications and formations on those asteroid belts, landmasses, and clouds of stardust. They were clearly developed through the alliance of the various powers of the Spirit Luxuriant World, and they formed some sort of defensive system for their world.

Of course, that didn't mean that the entire system had already been completed. They required an astronomical amount of resources and it was clear they were still working on it.

Even without Kou Chongxue to bring him around, Shang Xia was able to avoid those layers of defenses and silently approach the Spirit Luxuriant World.

As they approached the heavenly screen, a burst of chaos happened in the northern region of the Spirit Luxuriant World. Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia's attention were immediately drawn over.

Powerful waves of energy rushed towards the heavenly screen, and the powerful disturbance alarmed nearly half the world.

Both Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia could feel the World Origin Source rolling violently. It even seemed as though it was about to boil...

Shang Xia, who experienced something like that more than once, yelled in shock, "Someone is breaking through to the Martial Void Realm!"

Kou Chongxue didn't respond as the frown on his face grew deeper with the powerful waves of energy growing stronger and stronger.

It didn't take long for 3 other powerful majestic auras to appear above the heavenly screen to stare at the source of the disturbance.

Even though their attention was drawn over, they still noticed Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue as they slowly approached the heavenly screen.

"Oh? True Immortal Kou, you're back?" Liu Jingsheng was the first to speak. Even though Liu Jingsheng was talking to Kou Chongxue, Shang Xia could feel his gaze on him.

Kou Chongxue chuckled softly, "What's going on now? I left for a little over half a year, but such a big transformation happened over there..."

Obviously, he was referring to the source of the disturbance. All of them stared straight at where the Northern Sea Mystic Sect was.

True Immortal Liu smiled while shaking his head. "My Yuanchen Sect is simply too far from the Northern Sea Mystic Sect. I have no idea what is happening there at the moment, but from the looks of it, they should be welcoming their second True Immortal!"

Kou Chongxue chuckled to himself. All of them knew what happened back then. Whether or not the newly ascended True Immortal would remain in the Northern Sea Mystic Sect was unknown!

Moreover, the Northern Sea Mystic Sect had an Elysium. It would be able to hide the disturbance caused by the breakthrough and even increase the chances of success. Not only would the World Origin Source not churn as much, but the sudden emergence of the aura wouldn't cause the heavenly screen to nearly flip over!

From how intense the fluctuations were, it was clear the person who broke through was doing it outside the Elysium!

"True Immortal Kou... Since you're back, would that mean that the matter regarding the Azure Oddity World has come to a close?" True Immortal Yang Taihe of the Eternal Palace asked. However, Shang Xia also noticed how Yang Taihe turned his attention to him for a split second.

Kou Chongxue stared at Shang Xia who was feeling a little uneasy and laughed, "The Azure Oddity World was divided up between 4 Spirit Worlds and 4 Azure Worlds."

Sighing softly, he continued, "What I saw really widened my horizons. I saw how they split up a world with as little wastage as possible. Compared to them, our method at obtaining the Manyu Continent seemed way too crude."

True Immortal Li Jidao of the Divine Capital Sect couldn't help but add, "True Immortal Kou, why don't you tell us what happened? After all, our Spirit Luxuriant World also has to walk down that path in the future."

Shooting him a glance, Kou Chongxue muttered softly, "Why are you in such a rush? We can't possibly leave True Immortal Zhang out of this discussion. Let's wait for this matter to be settled before we talk about what happened to the Azure Oddity World."

Unlike the Yuanchen Sect which seemed to have formed an alliance with the Tongyou Institution and the Eternal Palace they had better relations with, the Tongyou Institution and the Divine Capital Sect seemed to have a lot of grudges against each other. After all, their conflicts had been accumulating for a long time and the relationship between their True Immortals was nothing short of antagonistic.

Liu Jingsheng could feel the subtle shift in the atmosphere between them and he quickly added, "Looking at the transformation that is happening, Lu Wuzi should be the expert attempting the breakthrough..."

Yang Taihe nodded in agreement. "According to what we know, True Immortal Zhang actually nurtured another disciple who reached the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm. That person never appeared during both invasions. It's obvious how deep their schemes were. After the formation of our Spirit Luxuriant World, I thought that the disciple would be able to complete the breakthrough to enter the Martial Void Realm... Who would have thought that Lu Wuzi would be a step ahead...?"

Li Jidao's gasp rang suddenly in their ears. "This is strange... Why hasn't True Immortal Zhang appeared?"

Li Jidao's question hit the crux of the problem and everyone couldn't help but think of the possibilities.

The birth of a True Immortal was a matter of great importance! As their ancestor or master, Zhang Xuansheng should have appeared to protect him while he completed the process! However... Not only did Lu Wuzi not attempt to break through in their Elysium, but Zhang Xuansheng was nowhere to be seen!

One had to know that of the 4 True Immortals standing above the heavenly screen, as long as one of them had the intention to interrupt the process, Lu Wuzi's ascension would basically be over. No one would be able to react in time to save Lu Wuzi! Hell... Even Shang Xia would be able to interrupt the ascension process if he wanted to!

One could say that Lu Wuzi was banking everything on the other True Immortals! His breakthrough was basically a gamble that the other True Immortals were reasonable enough and were thinking for the sake of the Spirit Luxuriant World!

Eventually, a soft sigh left Yang Taihe's lips. "Looks like Lu Wuzi is really going to break off all relations with Zhang Xuansheng... True Immortal Li, do you know what happened?"

There was no question about it. Li Jidao could be said to have the closest relationship with Zhang Xuansheng among all of them.

A low voice eventually escaped his lips. "I'm more curious about what happened to True Immortal Zhang at the moment. How can he not be concerned about such a massive disturbance?"

"Could they have made some sort of secret agreement?" Liu Jingsheng wondered out loud. However, he realized how absurd he sounded and he couldn't help but burst out laughing.

The next second, all of them felt a strange disturbance in the north. An enraged cry filled the heavens and earth. "Lu Wuzi, you lied to your teacher and plotted against your ancestor! You ungrateful bastard! I actually fell for your schemes!"

A loud blast caused the heavenly screen above the Northern Sea Mystic Sect to tremble as massive gales threatened to sweep through the entirety of the Spirit Luxuriant World.

Of course, Yang Taihe and the rest wouldn't let that happen. All 4 of them acted in unison as they prevented the spatial fluctuations that originated from the blast from affecting the rest of the world.

Yang Taihe sighed softly, "I might not know what exactly happened, but True Immortal Zhang's divine soul seemed to be trapped in the Northern Sea Elysium. There is no way anyone could have done it on his own. I'm afraid we're going to watch the Northern Sea Mystic Sect fall apart today..."

Chapter 999: Completely Destroyed!

"Zhang Xuansheng has been trapped in the Northern Sea Elysium?!" Shang Xia revealed an incredulous look after hearing what happened.

Li Jidao quickly added, "True Immortal Zhang should have complete control over the Northern Sea Elysium. They wouldn't be able to trap him no matter what. However, Lu Wuzi and the rest seemed to have temporarily suppressed his divine soul such that he wouldn't be able to discover what happened outside the Elysium, preventing him from discovering Lu Wuzi's breakthrough..."

Shang Xia nodded instinctively. Li Jidao's analysis made sense.

It was truly unbelievable for Martial Dipper Realm experts to trap a True Immortal in his Elysium no matter how many of them there were. Even if they caught him off guard, he had full control over the Elysium. Blocking his senses seemed a lot more possible.

It was then that Kou Chongxue muttered, "It's the World Origin Source. Lu Wuzi might be able to prevent True Immortal Zhang's divine soul from extending past the Elysium to find out what is happening outside, but he can't seal off the World Origin Source! However... By the time the World Origin Source is affected, the most dangerous part of the breakthrough has already passed."

Well... He might have passed the danger of breaking through, but everyone knew what Lu Wuzi would have to face next. He would have to overcome Zhang Xuansheng's rage next.

If he was unable to do so, even if he passed through the gates of the Martial Void Realm, he would suffer in the hands of Zhang Xuansheng whose cultivation level was close to the third tier of the Martial Void Realm.

What in the world was Lu Wuzi relying on?

Liu Jingsheng broke out into laughter suddenly. "Looks like Lu Wuzi and those who were in on it had some impressive method to prevent True Immortal Zhang from discovering his actions.

Unfortunately, they failed at the very last moment. Whatever it was... It's impressive to be able to prevent him from rushing out from the Northern Sea Elysium the instant he discovered the anomaly. If I'm not wrong, Lu Wuzi definitely obtained the method in the Star Origin City."

As the words left his lips, a tyrannical and majestic aura burst into the skies from the north. Intense spatial fluctuations spread across the land and it was clear to everyone present that Zhang Xuansheng had arrived.

"Traitor... Die!"

Everyone could feel the anger burning in Zhang Xuansheng's heart. He might look calm, but his roar covered half the Spirit Luxuriant World.

As a True Immortal and the strongest expert in the Spirit Luxuriant World, he was actually played by disciples of his faction!

Above the heavenly screen, the phenomenon that was born from Lu Wuzi's breakthrough finally started to recede. The True Immortals who gathered could tell that even though Lu Wuzi had successfully broken through, his Void Origin wasn't fully consolidated. He wouldn't be able to display more than half the might of a proper first tier Martial Void Realm expert.

Facing an enraged Zhang Xuansheng, Lu Wuzi didn't have the slightest chance of victory!

However, what was special about the breakthrough was the fact that Lu Wuzi's breakthrough had nothing to do with the Northern Sea Elysium. That meant that he wouldn't be bound to an Elysium and he was in the same situation as Kou Chongxue.

Even if he couldn't fight Zhang Xuansheng, he could run!

As long as he left the Spirit Luxuriant World for the time being, he wouldn't have to worry about the peak second tier Martial Void Realm Zhang Xuansheng. Even if Zhang Xuansheng reached the third tier of the Martial Void Realm, he wouldn't be able to do a thing to Lu Wuzi!

Actually... That was Lu Wuzi's plan.

When Zhang Xuansheng easily tore through the restriction that was placed around the Northern Sea Elysium, Lu Wuzi no longer bothered consolidating his foundations. Even though he might suffer cultivation deviation and regress from the Martial Void Realm, he charged out of the heavenly screen.

The enraged Zhang Xuansheng followed closely behind.

Even though Zhang Xuansheng was chained to his Elysium, it didn't mean that experts like them couldn't venture out slightly.

With the successful birth of the Spirit Luxuriant World, True Immortals who were shackled to their Elysiums could actually venture out of the world a set distance away.

The distance was basically how far the defense system around the Spirit Luxuriant World was set up. After all, those True Immortals had to take charge of laying them down in the first place.

Lu Wuzi couldn't even engage in conversation with the other True Immortals who had gathered above the heavenly screen as he tore through the void to run.

“Where the hell do you think you’re going?” A scarlet ball of light appeared above the heavenly screen and several streams of liquid-like substance shot into the void. They eventually gathered again into a massive cage that trapped him within.

Lu Wuzi maintained his composure as he tried to shatter the cage, Unfortunately, everything was futile.

He might be able to draw on a portion of the world’s energy now that he had broken through, but how could he possibly be stronger than Zhang Xuansheng who was both stronger than him and had been in the Martial Void Realm for a much longer time?

Of course, he wouldn’t give up easily. He started to gather his barely formed Void Origin and risked falling back to the Martial Dipper Realm to draw on as much power of the world as possible to shatter the cage.

The strange liquid-like prison that trapped Lu Wuzi was actually Zhang Xuansheng’s domain.

No matter how Lu Wuzi tried to struggle free, everything seemed futile. However, that didn’t mean that Lu Wuzi wasn’t consuming his Void Origin to try to break free. With the rate at which he was being exhausted, even if he managed to live, he would suffer grave injuries.

Zhang Xuansheng might have the upper hand, but he still seemed a little uneasy.

“I failed to notice the change when it happened. I’m ashamed you have to watch me clean house...” Zhang Xuansheng muttered to the rest. He seemed afraid that they would interfere in the battle and heavily emphasized that he was merely dealing with internal matters of his sect by ‘cleaning house’.

As he spoke, Lu Wuzi, who seemed to be struggling for his life in Zhang Xuansheng’s domain, spoke up. “Hmph, when you were in seclusion, I already announced my departure from the sect! I had nothing to do with your Northern Sea Mystic Sect from that moment on. This has nothing to do with the internal affairs of your sect!”

“Preposterous!” Zhang Xuansheng roared with anger. “You split up the sect and plot against your ancestors... Is there any other sect in our Spirit Luxuriant World who will dare to accept you?”

The scarlet liquid that resembled blood started to gather once again. It restricted Lu Wuzi’s movement in his domain.

Surprisingly, Lu Wuzi didn’t seem the slightest bit panicked. He muttered calmly, “From this day forth, I’ll set up my own sect, the Northern Ice Essence Sect! I will no longer have anything to do with the Northern Sea Mystic Sect. Fellow True Immortals, please witness my oath!

As he spoke, he connected to the Spirit Luxuriant World Origin Source and swore a martial oath!

Turning to the other True Immortals gathered above the heavenly screen, Lu Wuzi muttered, “What’s the matter? Is my cultivation not sufficient to create my own sect?”

The next moment, Shang Xia heard Kou Chongxue bursting into laughter. “When has a True Immortal personally set up a sect in our Spirit Luxuriant World? If True Immortal Lu doesn’t have the qualifications, will there be anyone else more qualified?”

The words were still ringing in their ears when Kou Chongxue's figure disappeared.

A powerful sword qi cut through space as the cage Zhang Xuansheng created was shattered.

"Kou Chongxue, are you making things difficult for me on purpose? Are you planning to wage war with my Northern Sea Mystic Sect?" Zhang Xuansheng's anger seemed to die in an instant as he regained his calm. Even so, his voice was frosty.

"True Immortal Zhang, is there a need to go so far? The threat our Spirit Luxuriant World is facing has yet to be dealt with. A True Immortal is enough to affect the overall situation and I hope you can take care of the bigger picture. I hope you're not going to attack him because of your personal feelings..." Even though he was yelling, his hands didn't slow down as his Hidden Frost Sword slashed across space. This time, it wasn't directed at the cage that trapped Lu Wuzi. Instead, it went straight for Zhang Xuansheng.

"Hmph, this matter concerns my Northern Sea Mystic Sect. True Immortal Kou, aren't you overreaching yourself?"

"Hehe... True Immortal Zhang must be joking. Since True Immortal Lu chose to establish his own faction, and even made an oath for it, he's no longer related to your Northern Sea Mystic Sect. I'm not willing to become enemies with you but I hope you can consider the bigger picture for the sake of our Spirit Luxuriant World!" Kou Chongxue chuckled under his breath.

The sudden exchange between Kou Chongxue and Zhang Xuansheng caused a giant storm to sweep across the space above the heavenly screen, but their voices rang loud and clear in the minds of those present. It was as though they were intentionally speaking to the others.

Shifting his glance a little, Li Jidao's gaze landed on Liu Jingsheng who was slightly closing in on him. However, he quickly turned back to face Kou Chongxue and Zhang Xuansheng before muttering softly. "What's the matter? Are you afraid I'll help Zhang Xuansheng?"

"How would I? My Yuanchen Sect is too far south. My eyesight is pretty bad and I can't see the exchange clearly. I merely wanted to get a closer look..." Liu Jingsheng chuckled in response.

A True Immortal with bad eyesight? How the fuck was that even possible?

The alliance between Kou Chongxue and Liu Jingsheng was so obvious that the only thing they could do to make it stand out more was to carve their alliance onto their faces.

Li Jidao no longer bothered with Liu Jingsheng as he stared at Yang Taihe who wasn't too far away. "Brother Yang, what do you think about Lu Wuzi's actions of breaking off to form his own faction?"

Compared to Yang Taihe and Li Jidao, Kou Chongxue and Liu Jingsheng could only be considered juniors. When Li Jidao and Yang Taihe entered the Martial Void Realm, there wasn't a need to mention Kou Chongxue. Even Liu Jingsheng's name has not spread.

With a smile on his face, Yang Taihe muttered, “Lu Wuzi’s actions are truly despicable. Even if we don’t punish him severely today, we have to be careful of him in the future. However... True Immortal Kou is right. Our Spirit Luxuriant World’s foundations are weak and we need all the exports we can get, especially an expert at the Martial Void Realm. After all, we have to defend ourselves against our enemies hiding in the vast sea of stars...”

Li Jidao snorted once, and no longer spoke. He continued to watch the battle.

Liu Jingsheng smiled at Yang Taihe, not too surprised by his decision.

Since no one else was going to interfere, all their attention was placed on the exchange between the 2 True Immortals... Oh, wait. It was the 3 True Immortals now. The rest wanted to watch if either side would be able to force out the other’s trump cards. At the very least, they would be able to gain a better understanding of those fighting.

Lu Wuzi was part of the battle, but because he just ascended, his Void Origin wasn’t stable yet. As he drew a lot of power from the world earlier, he greatly exhausted himself. Even with Kou Chongxue’s help, he was unable to immediately break free.

Yang Taihe’s sigh suddenly rang through the air, “True Immortal Zhang truly deserves his reputation as the strongest expert in our Spirit Luxuriant World. It’s no wonder he was able to hold 2 True Immortals of the Spirit Abundance World back himself.”

Kou Chongxue was actually being suppressed by Zhang Xuansheng!

It was one of the extremely rare times Shang Xia was seeing Kou Chongxue being suppressed by an expert in the same cultivation realm.

Even though Zhang Xuansheng was a second tier Martial Void Realm expert and was half a foot into the next level, one couldn’t forget that he still had to split off a portion of his strength to trap Lu Wuzi with his domain!

He was fighting 2 people alone, and even though Lu Wuzi was weak, he was still an expert in the Martial Void Realm!

Li Jidao’s cold voice rang in their ears the moment Yang Taihe spoke. “It isn’t surprising for True Immortal Zhang to be able to display such might. Brother Yang, why aren’t you talking about True Immortal Kou’s abilities?”

It couldn’t be denied that Zhang Xuansheng was the strongest expert in their Spirit Luxuriant World. He possessed tyrannical strength. However... For Kou Chongxue to be able to hold him off... The abilities Kou Chongxue had displayed brought shock to Yang Taihe and Li Jidao.

After entering the Martial Void Realm, they found it extremely difficult to improve.

Not to mention how the Azure Origin, Azure Spiritual, and Azure Ascension Worlds had poor foundations for them to grow stronger. Even their Spirit Luxuriant World had barely taken shape. All of them didn’t even know much about how to progress in the Martial Void Realm and could only feel their way about...

The World’s Will blessing that came from the world ascension played a massive role in their current cultivation levels.

From the time the world ascension was complete, all of them barely made any progress. However, they could tell that Kou Chongxue's combat strength had increased by a ridiculous extent!

Even though Kou Chongxue was still a first tier Martial Void Realm expert, his improvement in a short 5 years was something Yang Taihe and Li Jidao only managed to achieve after close to a hundred years of accumulation.

Both Yang Taihe and Li Jidao felt complicated emotions battering against their hearts.

At the side, Liu Jingsheng sighed, "This might be the difference between Kou Chongxue, who isn't shackled to an Elysium, and us!"

All 3 of them seemed to acknowledge their fate that very instant.

"Hey..." Not too long later, Liu Jingsheng sighed loudly. A frown appeared on his face as he mumbled in a strange voice, "... Where's the little kid who came with True Immortal Kou?!"

No way Zhang Xuansheng deleted him while fighting the 2...

They had their guesses and ridiculed the absurdity of the situation inwardly, but their interests were piqued since Shang Xia was able to disappear from right under their noses.

Releasing their divine souls to look for the kid, it didn't take long for them to find him.

"What the fuck? Another Martial Dipper Realm cultivator at the grand completion stage?!"

"This... Is that a Holy Artifact?!"

"What's he doing?!"

BOOM!

Crack...

The domain cage that trapped Lu Wuzi that had been weakened by Kou Chongxue's slash earlier blew apart!

Chapter 1000: Ice Essence Sect

...

Zhang Xuansheng looked mighty impressive as he suppressed both Kou Chongxue and Lu Wuzi at the same time.

However, the moment Kou Chongxue made his move, while the other True Immortals watched at the side, Zhang Xuansheng knew that it would be impossible for him to kill Lu Wuzi any longer...

The attitude of the other True Immortals showed that they wouldn't allow Lu Wuzi to be slain.

However... All of them clearly didn't seem to mind allowing Zhang Xuansheng to heavily injure Lu Wuzi's foundations. At the very least, they would be able to allow Zhang Xuansheng to maintain his prestige that way.

No matter what, Lu Wuzi's actions truly slapped Zhang Xuansheng across the face. Regardless of what disagreements they had in the Northern Sea Mystic Sect, what Lu Wuzi did was undoubtedly a betrayal. To old ancestors like Yang Taihe and Li Jidao, it couldn't be denied that they disliked what Lu Wuzi did.

They might have to take the bigger picture into account, but that didn't stop them from watching Lu Wuzi getting taught a lesson. At the same time, they would be able to warn other people who were thinking of doing the same thing!

Due to the battle, Lu Wuzi's Void Origin was damaged. He might not be shackled to an Elysium, but it wouldn't be too possible for him to improve further in the future.

The only other thing that truly annoyed Zhang Xuansheng, the oldest and strongest True Immortal of the Spirit Luxuriant World, was Shang Xia's presence.

It was fine if he couldn't kill Lu Wuzi after Kou Chongxue's interference. However... A mere Martial Dipper Realm ant who followed Kou Chongxue actually had the guts to stand there and watch their battle! How could he take it lying down? Was he not supposed to teach the junior a lesson?

He could tell that Shang Xia had already entered the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm and it was obvious the youngster was heavily favored by Kou Chongxue and had the potential to enter the Martial Void Realm in the future, but at the end of the day, he was still no True Immortal!

Even if I kill the youngster now... Is Kou Chongxue really going to go crazy and risk his life to fight me?! Even if he does... He won't be my opponent!

Anyway, the others wouldn't watch if the 2 of them decided to go all out in a life-or-death battle.

Kid, this is a battle among Martial Void Realm experts! You can only blame yourself for being at the wrong place at the wrong time!

A formless blood qi scattered during the battle against Lu Wuzi and Kou Chongxue, and it slowly gathered around Shang Xia's position.

Everything seemed unintentional and looked natural as the battle progressed, but Shang Xia managed to detect it.

To be exact, the Crimson Soul Tablet detected the threat. It seemed to turn crazy as it gave Shang Xia intense warnings, causing him to send his Five Element Dipper Qi outwards to take a look at what was going on. He noticed his dipper qi being eaten away around him.

What a sinister skill...

Shang Xia didn't doubt the identity of the person who chose to make a move on him. He was sure it was Zhang Xuansheng who was currently suppressing Kou Chongxue and Lu Wuzi.

His sneaky actions enraged Shang Xia. He was using the opportunity when Kou Chongxue was fighting Zhang Xuansheng to carefully observe the battle between Martial Void Realm experts. After all, he understood just how rarely he would be able to watch the battle experts of that level.

It didn't matter if it was to deepen his understanding of the martial dao, or to temper his soul... Watching the battle between Martial Void Realm experts would give Shang Xia a lot of benefits.

From the time he stepped onto the path of cultivation, he had been creating his own techniques and dao philosophy. The inheritances he received only served as a reference.

Now that he was about to step into the next level, he would have to improve once again. Watching battles at their level was the best way to gain insights.

Never in his wildest imaginations would he have thought that Zhang Xuansheng would be so shameless as to sneak attack a junior who wasn't even in the same cultivation realm as himself!

Too bad for Zhang Xuansheng, he truly underestimated Shang Xia. Shang Xia was no ordinary grand completion stage Martial Dipper Realm expert. His Five Element Origin was something that none of them could fathom!

The moment he discovered the dirty tricks Zhang Xuansheng was playing, only a single thought remained. He needed to take revenge, in the grandest way possible.

Slightly surprised that Shang Xia managed to discover his sneak attack, Zhang Xuansheng didn't actually care too much about it. He only thought that it had something to do with the life-saving treasures Kou Chongxue gave the youngster.

His attention returned to Kou Chongxue and Lu Wuzi, and because Kou Chongxue noticed his dirty tricks earlier, he increased the intensity of his attacks.

Surprised that Kou Chongxue had been hiding his strength, Zhang Xuansheng couldn't help but get more involved in the battle. He was no longer able to pay attention to anything else.

What he didn't expect was that the Martial Dipper Realm junior was crazy enough to retaliate! Even more so when he inserted himself into the battlefield between the 3 Martial Void Realm True Immortals!

Shang Xia pushed his Five Element Origin to the limit as he forcefully carved out a path through the battlefield to the domain cage that trapped Lu Wuzi.

The path he took went straight through the battlefield, and as he made his way over, he started to store his energy. The Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar he placed in his ear started to expand in his hand and by the time he arrived at the cage, the Stone Rod was shining with brilliant rays of five colored light.

Swinging it with all his might, the void around the Stone Rod shattered as streaks of five colored light scattered everywhere.

Bang!

The strange blast rang through the void when the Stone Rod smashed into Zhang Xuansheng's domain, and several cracks formed on its surface. His Five Element Origin rushed out of the weapon the next moment and entered those cracks. It clashed with Zhang Xuansheng's Void Origin and started to eat away at it.

Shang Xia might not have broken through, and his Five Element Origin might be no match for a Void Origin, but that was if he was fighting alone! With Kou Chongxue and Lu Wuzi working with him, it wasn't difficult for him to overwhelm Zhang Xuansheng's Void Origin!

That was why Shang Xia dared to fight it head-on. Lu Wuzi was resisting Zhang Xuansheng's Void Origin from inside the domain cage, and Shang Xia's seemingly pitiful attack that barely caused a few cracks was more than enough to turn the situation around.

Lu Wuzi also quickly capitalized on the weaknesses created in the domain cave. Those cracks that formed failed to restore themselves and they expanded greatly.

After unleashing his attack, Shang Xia beat a hasty retreat. Unleashing his Five Element Annihilation Yin Yang Ring, 2 giant vortexes formed around him as he ate away at the remnant energy Zhang Xuansheng left behind as he fled from the scene.

The domain cage shattered the next moment as Lu Wuzi emerged. His gaze turned to Shang Xia who had already reached a safe distance away before using his Void Origin to draw on the power of the world to join Kou Chongxue in battle.

The moment he emerged from the domain cage, there was actually no need for the battle to continue.

Yang Taihe, Li Jidao, and Liu Jingsheng stared at each other before interfering in the battle. They released their Void Origins and separated the 3 who were fighting.

"Fellow True Immortals, now that things have reached this stage, is there a need to continue fighting?"

"We're surrounded by enemies and they're keeping a close eye on us. We can't waste our energy fighting each other, allowing them to take advantage of our moments of weakness..."

"No matter what, we gained a new True Immortal today. This is something we should celebrate!"

Just like that, the battle came to a close.

...

It didn't take long for another half a year to pass. The end of the 5th year of the Spirit Luxuriant Calendar rolled about.

Since Lu Wuzi successfully entered the Martial Void Realm and broke off from the Northern Sea Mystic Sect, the Northern Sea Mystic Sect that used to claim the number 1 spot for the strongest faction fell apart.

Following Lu Wuzi's ascension, there were at least 4 Martial Dipper Realm experts of the Northern Sea Mystic Sect who left with him. There were also 7 Martial Extermination Realm experts who followed them, showing that the entire series of events had been very well planned out.

Lu Wuzi's plan succeeded, and after receiving the recognition and silent agreement of the other True Immortals, he established the Ice Essence Sect in the Bing Continent!

There were many incidents of disciples from the Northern Sea Mystic Sect defecting to the Ice Essence Sect. Because of Lu Wuzi's reputation as the newest True Immortal of the Spirit Luxuriant World, a bunch of wandering cultivators also went over to join his sect. In just half a year, the Ice Essence Sect managed to gain a proper footing and started to resemble a major powerhouse.

“A True Immortal, at least 6 Martial Dipper Realm experts, more than a dozen Martial Extermination Realm cultivators, and a bunch of disciples of lower cultivation levels...” Shang Xia stared at the report on the Ice Essence Sect with a strange light in his eyes. He looked at the upper echelons of the Tongyou Institution before him and muttered, “Theoretically speaking, the Ice Essence Sect is comparable to our Tongyou Institution in strength. However, the Bing Continent is truly lacking in resources. They haven’t established a proper faction until Lu Wuzi’s appearance. What I’m curious about is how Lu Wuzi and the others are going to find enough cultivation resources for their disciples...”

Instead of looking at the deputy patriarchs, Shang Xia was staring straight at Yu Duhe of the Outreach Division who was also present.

Getting to his feet, Yu Duhe muttered, “From the intelligence we gathered in the North, Lu Wuzi decided to betray the Northern Sea Mystic Sect after the failure of the Spirit Abundance World’s second invasion. It was then that he started secretly deploying batches of resources from the Northern Sea Mystic Sect to the Bing Continent. Zhang Xuansheng hadn’t been focusing on the affairs of the Northern Sea Mystic Sect for some time now and Lu Wuzi managed to form a faction of his own within the Northern Sea Mystic Sect. He managed to make enough arrangements such that no one discovered his plan until he completed his ascension. Perhaps some people discovered what he wanted to do, but were unable to relay the news to True Immortal Zhang...”

Shang Xia sucked in a cold breath in response, “It’s obvious he had been planning this for some time... Why would he do something like that?”

Yun Jing, who was seated between Shang Bo and Ji Wenlong, finally spoke. “It probably had something to do with Zhang Xuansheng’s revelation of how he became a second tier Martial Void Realm expert during the second invasion... Lu Wuzi, who was preparing to break through, was afraid he would be devoured by Zhang Xuansheng and decided to leave the sect. As for those who went with him... They should be experts or disciples of the expert Zhang Xuansheng devoured.”

Yun Jing made Shang Xia think back to his experience in the Heavenly Lake Elysium of the Spirit Abundance World. True Immortal Chong Shan, who was reaching the end of his lifespan, wanted to nurture another True Immortal for his family. However, he didn’t hesitate to devour Lou Yi’s half complete Void Origin when he realized that the ascension was bound to fail with how adamant True Immortal Tang Yu was. In the end, he managed to extend his lifespan by a few dozen years.

Could there be any sort of relation between their actions?

If Shang Xia wasn’t mistaken, True Immortal Chong Xu of the Emptiness Floating Mountain was one of the True Immortals fighting Zhang Xuansheng during the second invasion...

Turning to Yun Jing again, Shang Xia asked, “Did the Outreach Division find out if there is any other reason Lu Wuzi chose to betray the Northern Sea Mystic Sect?”

Staring at Shang Xia with a look of shock, Yu Duhe muttered before she could say anything. “Isn’t it just because True Immortal Lu was afraid his Void Origin would be devoured by True Immortal Zhang? From what we know, True Immortal Zhang is a step away from the third tier of the Martial

Void Realm. If he manages to devour Lu Wuzi's Void Origin, he would be able to take the final step.”

A frown appeared on his face as he sank deep into thought.

Yun Jing seemed to notice his abnormal reaction and muttered, “Did you think of something?”

Shang Xia slowly looked at the others before mumbling, “I do have a strange guess, but I don't have any evidence. However, I need Patriarch Kou to confirm something for me...”

Kou Chongxue's figure appeared in the hall the second Shang Xia spoke and he stared at the youngster. “What do you wish to know?”

Shang Xia could tell that the figure was a mere projection by Kou Chongxue but that wouldn't affect what he wanted to know.

“What I wish to know is how long a True Immortal can live for. And how long True Immortal Zhang has left to live.”

Kou Chongxue didn't answer Shang Xia's question directly. Instead, he asked a question of his own. “Are you suspecting that Lu Wuzi didn't just defect because Zhang Xuansheng wanted to devour him to enter the third tier Martial Void Realm? Do you think that Zhang Xuansheng would also want to devour him to increase his lifespan?”