

Walker 1031

Chapter 1031 - A New Affinity

Hearing Jing Wei's ambitious words, both Lin Mu and Jing Luo were surprised.

But both their eyes lit up as they understood just how powerful an immortal weapon could be. While Jing Luo had not known about its power and could only imagine it from the name, Lin Mu knew about it.

He had after all, read about a few in the Memoirs of the Lost immortal. While it only gave some simple descriptions about the power of the immortal weapons, they were still nothing to joke about.

For example, Lin Mu read about an immortal weapon that the Lost Immortal had used, which was an arrow. It was just a single arrow without a bow to use it with.

And yet... when he had thrown the arrow with his hand, the arrow had pierced through an entire mountain range before stopping!

Just from that, Lin Mu understood the power of an immortal weapon could not be joked about. Spirit weapons and immortal weapons were on an entirely different level and even a million peak grade spirit weapons would not compare with a true immortal weapon.

But with all this, Lin Mu also remembered something.

'Unless he himself is in the Immortal realm, it would be very difficult to make an Immortal grade weapon.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

"What do you need, grandfather? I'll help you! Not to brag, but I've progressed quite a lot in my forging skills too. Plus, now I'm in the Dao Shell realm, so it won't be a problem for me to go on for months." Jing Luo stated.

"I will definitely need more help." Jing Wei replied.

Jing Wei nodded his head. He had already learned from Jing Luo that his grandson had reached the Dao Shell realm. Not just him, but Lin Mu had reached the realm before him. It was honestly a bigger shock to him than Jing Luo being alive.

But despite hearing that, Jing Wei still felt that Lin Mu had a lot of secrets.

'Not to mention... that metal element aura coming from his body... why is there so much of it? He doesn't even use that. He has an affinity with the earth element.' Jing Wei wondered.

It was now that Jing Luo spoke again.

"And Lin Mu can help us, too. He has some achievements in refinement as well. He actually refined gold to just ten percent of its original volume!" Jing Luo added.

Hearing this, Jing Wei raised his brows.

"That is indeed impressive. If you can do that, you should be able to refine green gold too." Jing Wei spoke.

Lin Mu knew that he could indeed refine green gold. The only reason why he had not before was because he had not used the correct type of gold. In order to refine green gold, one needed raw gold ore rather than already forged gold.

Green gold was actually a higher quality gold naturally present in gold and needed to be refined from the ore itself. And besides, the technique didn't call for green gold and thus he didn't have a need to do that.

But it was now that Jing Wei had a thought.

"Why did you refine that much gold, though? Did you need to make some spirit tool?" He asked.

"This man did something far more insane." Jing Luo said as he explained the True Gold Body Forging arts to his grandfather, while Lin Mu could only listen wryly.

After hearing it all, Jing Wei was certainly stunned.

"No wonder... your body... it has transformed entirely." Jing Wei spoke.

"Mmm... though it does bring some good benefits." Lin Mu replied and let his skin glow again.

Jing Wei suddenly felt the metal elemental aura from Lin Mu spike and it felt like there was a mountain of hold in front of him.

"This... is on some other level. I've never felt so much metal elemental aura from anyone. Even though that have affinity with metal elemental and cultivate metal attribute cultivation techniques aren't like this." Jing Wei couldn't help but speak.

"Yeah... Jing Luo said the same." Lin Mu agreed.

"Perhaps... have you checked your elemental affinity again?" Jing Wei asked.

"Oh? Why?" Lin Mu asked.

"I think you might have the affinity to the metal element too now." Jing Wei replied.

"What? But I only have it for the Earth element." Lin Mu stated.

"It might haven been so. But with such an absurd transformative technique, I don't think adding another elemental affinity would be too much of a problem." Jing Wei replied.

After he said this, he took out something from his spatial storage bracelet.

Lin Mu saw the object and found it to be a hexagonal metal block of some kind.

"What is this?" Lin Mu asked.

"Try sensing the metal elemental spirit Qi in it. It's a container for Metal spirit Qi." Jing Wei replied.

"Yeah, try it!" Jing Luo prodded on.

Lin Mu took hold of the container and closed his eyes. His spirit sense came out of his hand and entered the container. At first he didn't feel anything, but just after five seconds, he could feel something sharp passing by his spirit sense probe.

His brows furrowed as he tried to sense it again. Ten seconds passed by after which he felt the same kind of sharp energy. This time, it was far more defined. Lin Mu continued trying it and by the fiftieth try he finally made contact with the sharp energy.

And the moment he did, the energy traveled along his spirit sense and to his hand before quickly entering his meridians.

Lin Mu's eyes opened wide at that moment as he felt a new type of spirit Qi in his body. More and more metal spirit Qi kept on pouring out from the container after that, as if a dam had been opened.

It all surged into Lin Mu's Dantian, before condensing into liquid form and making a pool of metal spirit Qi in the ocean in his Dantian.. It was yellow colored and lightly shimmered.

Chapter 1032 - The Obstacle In Forging

Lin Mu was not expecting that he would have really gained the affinity to the metal element, as it was not part of the True Gold Body Forging arts. It was not mentioned in any part of the technique, and it could not have been either.

Gaining an affinity to an element just from a technique was not something that was easily possible.

Most people either had elemental affinities right from the birth, or given to them by a physique or bloodline. This could be seen in the case of Little Shrubby, who had multiple elemental affinities by the virtue of his seven bloodlines, but even then the fire elemental affinity was the strongest.

Lin Mu had the earth elemental affinity innately and had been using it with the Mortal Strengthening scripture. That was the reason why the armor of the technique was so strong and quick to regenerate.

If it was someone without the earth elemental affinity practicing it, the effect would not have been as great.

Then there was the fact that Lin Mu also used fire spirit Qi. For this he didn't have an affinity either, but only his ability to sense it had increased due to the Embrace Of Hong Lin.

It was not on the same level as that of an elemental affinity.

But now Lin Mu had truly gained the affinity to the metal element. The surging metal spirit Qi into his meridians was its proof. If he didn't have the affinity, the spirit Qi wouldn't act on its own to enter his body.

"It really works..." Lin Mu finally said after having confirmed it all.

Jing Wei too, looked surprised at it all and then glanced at the hexagonal container in Lin Mu's hand.

'I told him to sense it... and he drained all the metal spirit Qi from it... Damn, at least I have two more of those left.' Jing Wei thought.

He wasn't really upset with Lin Mu about the use of the metal spirit Qi, as it was nothing compared to what he had done for them. Still, he used that metal spirit Qi for making spirit weapons, and as such, it was a bit important.

The good thing was that it could be refilled later, it would just take some time.

"Hahaha! This is excellent!" Jing Luo congratulated.

"I guess so... it'll take a while for me to get used to it, though." Lin Mu replied.

"Since you have the affinity, you will learn it quickly. Metal affinity is the easiest to use if you already use swords and other weapons. It can be used to amplify the power of most spirit weapons, especially the ones that are of the pure forging type.

With the short sword, you should be able to increase its power by at least two times if you use it with it." Jing Wei explained.

Hearing it, Lin Mu nodded his head.

This was not the only method he had thought of either. Lin Mu knew that he had another technique, the Boulder Collapsing first.

Lin Mu had used it with fire spirit Qi before and had seen its effect. He had also tested it with the earth spirit Qi before too, but had not used it in a battle yet. The metal spirit Qi could be used in a similar way.

'The only issue is the effect of it... the difference between boulder collapsing first used with fire spirit Qi and earth spirit Qi was vastly different. The same will probably be the case for metal spirit Qi.

I best test it so that I'm not caught off guard in a battle. Not to mention the side effects of it can still be damaging.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

"Guess you can help us too, though there is another issue I'm having." Jing Wei spoke. "Which I doubt any of you can help with." He added.

"Oh? What kind of an issue, Grandfather?" Jing Luo asked.

He was rather surprised that even with three talented people working on it there were still more issues.

"Its more of a limitation in our case, I could say. The forge... it's not stable enough." Jing Wei replied.

"The forge?" Jing Luo repeated, wondering if he had heard wrong.

The forge that Jing Wei had been using in War Castle Jing was the best forge that the Jing Clan owned. Not to mention the Jing clan, perhaps in the entire Xiaofan world there might not be a better forge.

"Yes. The forge is the problem." Jing Wei replied.

"If it's really the forge, then you mean to say the heat is less?" Jing Luo questioned.

"It's not the heat that is the problem. Our forge can generate plenty of heat. The issue is more on its stability. Even with the formation arrays controlling it, there is still a very fine difference in controlling it myself." Jing Wei answered.

"Then why don't we just upgrade the formation arrays?" Jing Luo asked.

"That... is not something we can do either. I've already upgraded it as much as possible with the new insights I got. While it is still upgradeable beyond that, we either don't have the resources for it, or it is simply not possible at our levels.

That is to say... the next upgrade of the formation arrays would put them on the same level as immortal grade." Jing Wei explained in detail.

Hearing this, Jing Luo finally understood the dilemma. To make an immortal grade weapon, they needed immortal grade formation arrays. But then to make an immortal grade formation arrays they neither had the resources neither the cultivation base.

Which if they did, they wouldn't have had a problem making the immortal grade weapon in the first place.

"Well, that will leave us in a loop." Jing Luo shook his head.

He knew that even his skills would not be able to match that of his grandfather and he wouldn't be able to upgrade the formation array, either.

It was now that Lin Mu spoke.

"I may have another method to do it."

Chapter 1033 - An Unexpected Solution

Lin Mu's words had certainly invoked their interest as both Jing Wei and Jing Luo had learned by now that he often had ideas that worked surprisingly well. It was an approach that could not be thought by them easily.

"Please go ahead." Jing Wei spoke.

"The issues is with the formation array being inadequate with its control, right? What if we replace that with someone who can manually control fire?" Lin Mu asked.

"I thought that too. But for a high level operation like this, we would need someone with fire elemental affinity that also has great skill with it along with refinement. The combination of those three is difficult to get.

Neither I nor Jing Luo have fire elemental affinity." Jing Wei replied.

"I have someone exactly like that." Lin Mu spoke.

"Oh? Really? That would be great." Jing Wei couldn't help but say.

"Still, we can't bring them here due to the restriction on entry." Duan Ke doused their expectations.

"Oh the person I'm taking about is already here. Or rather than a person..." Lin Mu then gestured towards Duan Ke.

She was confused but then saw that Lin Mu was actually pointing towards something else on her lap.

Jing Luo understood it immediately and his eyes lit up.

"Of course! He can do it too!" Jing Luo exclamation.

"Why are you looking at the beast?" Duan Ke questioned.

Jing Wei had the same question.

"Little Shrubby is the perfect to do it all. Not only is does he have a great affinity to fire he is also used to finely controlling fire." Lin Mu answered.

"This little beast? He barely has a cultivation base though." Duan Ke said.

"Ahahah! I told you before, he's not so little." Jing Luo chuckled.

Jing Wei was still confused, but his interest was certainly piqued.

~yawn~

Little Shrubby woke up from his nap after hearing Lin Mu call for him.

"Little Shrubby, time to work." Lin Mu spoke.

"Alright~" Little Shrubby said lazily.

~Shua~

Under the surprised eyes of Duan Ke and Jing Wei, the beast jumped from her lap and rapidly enlarged some distance from them. From the small size of a cat, Little Shrubby became taller and taller as his size increased.

By the time he stopped growing, he was almost touching the roof of the hall.

~shua~

And along with him returning to his full size, his aura and cultivation base was also released, shaking some of the objects kept in the hall.

"Whoa..." Duan Ke was awed by the sight of it.

She could still find the beast rather majestic. There was a faint heat coming from Little Shrubby as well that raised the temperature of the entire hall in just a few seconds.

Little Shrubby glanced at the woman in whose lap he was napping until a second ago and gave a little smile. It was another thing that the smile looked more threatening instead with multiple sharp fangs on display.

'The beast... I've never seen quite like it. This aura... its almost on the same level as that immortal beast. And it's not even at that realm yet.' Jing Wei thought to himself.

"Little Shrubby is at the Dao Shell realm?!" Duan Ke was stunned after sensing his cultivation base.

"Of course he is. He'll be sufficient to help us. He cooks a lot, so has good control over his fire." Lin Mu praised.

Jing Wei and Duan Ke were a little taken aback after hearing that Little Shrubby's control came from cooking rather than refinement, but they didn't disregard his skill. They wanted to see if it really was that good considering Lin Mu had said that.

"Alright, guess we can work with this." Jing Wei agreed.

Lin Mu nodded his head and all of them headed to the forge while Duan Ke went to do her own side of work. Tracking down the invaders' traces would take some time for her too, and she would need to do a lot of preparations before that.

Finally, in the forging hall, Jing Wei got to witness the skill of Little Shrubby. It was better than he had expected and with just a little more practice and directions, it increased even more.

That was exactly the level they needed for the forging and they could finally start.

The work that they needed to do was divided according to the skill of everyone, with Lin Mu getting the part for assistance in refinement.

Jing Luo was going to directly help in forging and will prepared the additional resources to be thrown in during the process.

And Jing Wei of course, was going to be the one doing the main part while Little Shrubby will provided his flames. Jing Wei also activated spirit Qi gathering arrays so that all of them could stay in their best shape for as long as possible.

With all the preparation done, they could finally start.

Though Lin Mu was surprised to find out that the weapon that Jing Wei was making was actually half way there already. Jing Wei had gotten stuck at that part and was practicing using other materials so as to not damage the main materials.

Jing Wei was making a sword, as that was the weapon he was best versed in and also the most proficient in.

The flames raged in the forge for six days and night straight, during which sounds of metal clanging, hammers hitting and coals crackling could be heard.

All of them got into a flow and poured their hearts into what was going to be the first ever Immortal Weapon of the Xiaofan world. Lin Mu greatly looked forward to it as Xukong had told him that if they really managed to make it, he might end up getting to see some immortal Qi!

Immortal Qi was something incredibly difficult to come up in lower worlds like these, and only those at the Immortal realm had the chance to refine it.. Even those in the Immortal Ascension realm would only come into contact with it when they ascended into a higher world.

Chapter 1034 - Shifting Currents

While Lin Mu was helping out Jing Wei and Jing Luo in the forge, he didn't know that out in the Xiaofan world, sinister currents had started to churn.

At an unknown location in the southern part of the Great Zhou Empire, certain individuals were gathering up.

~rustle~ rustle~

The trees rustled as the night breeze blew through them while a group of individuals dressed in dark robes stood under them. It was unknown what the goal of these individuals was, but from their eyes that were revealed under their masks, a cold feeling could be perceived.

They were hard to see in the darkness and unless one was close to them, no one would be able to tell that they were hiding there.

~WHOOSH~

The dark robed individuals waited until something passed over their heads.

"There," One of them whispered. "Follow that man."

With the order given, all the dark robed individuals ran behind the person who had just flown past them. If it were not for the cover of the night and the distance between the two parties being rather wide, the man flying in the sky would have sensed them.

The dark robed individuals continued following the flying man for about three hours before they finally stopped.

"This is enough." The leader of the dark robed individuals spoke.

"Should we get a closer look? We don't know how much further their sect is hidden." One of the dark robed men asked.

"No... Look," The leader pointed towards a specific tree.

The dark robed men looked towards the tree and their spirit senses probed it. After a few seconds, they gasped.

"No wonder they are so hidden... there are multiple formation arrays of the same kind layered." The dark robed man muttered.

"Indeed, if we went any further, we would have been detected." The leader replied.

"Alright. Time to inform the lord." The other dark robed man stated before taking out a communication jade slip.

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At the headquarters of the Gu Legion, a bald man with a beard and darker skin sat in a meditative position.

Concentric circles of runes glowed beneath him as a dark red energy floated around him. The dark red energy would circulate around his body for a few seconds, then pour into his body before leaving it a few seconds later.

This cycle would continue without a stop until finally the bald man woke up.

"Mm?" The man took out a communication jade slip from his robes.

"Lord Gu Yao... we found it." A message was heard.

As soon as the man heard it, a smile appeared on his face.

"Ahahah! You've hidden quite well all this time... Noon Grass sect, but no more. I'll start the culling from your sect first. You've already created enough problems for us..." Gu Yao laughed.

He stood up and walked out of the hall he was sitting in till now. There were ten men waiting for him outside, ready to take his orders.

"Prepare your men. It is time to attack." Gu Yao spoke.

"As you wish, my lord. And the other sects, we increase the suppression?" One of the men replied.

"Yes, time to use a few of our trump cards." Gu Yao stated.

"It shall be done." The men saluted with cupped hands before leaving.

Once they were gone, Gu Yao started at the empty starless sky while his eyes glowed in dark.

"Soon... all will fall."

...

Back in the War Castle Jing, the process of the forging was almost coming to an end.

~SHUA~

Flames kept on coming out of Little Shrubby's mouth and heated the long piece of metal that laid on an anvil.

"Just a bit more... we are almost at the end." Jing Wei spoke.

"HAA... Ha.... Ha... Never thought it would tire me out this much." Jing Luo said, while trying to catch his breath.

His clothes were drenched in sweat and were stuck to his body.

~CLANG~

The sound of a metal contained shifting could be heard as Lin Mu lifted up what looked like a large barrel.

"It's indeed rather intensive, though it is to be expected with an Immortal weapon." Lin Mu agreed.

"You aren't even tired, are you though?" Jing Luo asked, seeing Lin Mu, who was the same as when they had started the entire process before.

His robes were completely fine, and he wasn't sweating like Jing Luo and Jing Wei were either.

"I can go on for a while more." Lin Mu replied, making Jing Luo a bit jealous.

While he had said that he could work for over a month without stopping with his cultivation base, he hadn't realized just how strenuous forging an Immortal Weapon was like.

His spirit Qi was being drained rather quickly with all the tasks he had to do. Only Lin Mu could keep up with the continuous drain, as he was also replenishing it at the same rate. So overall, there was barely any difference for him.

"Come on now, focus. This is the last part," Jing Wei said, as he hammered the blade of the sword.

The blade didn't have an edge yet, but a faint energy could be felt coming from it already.

This sword was going to be a pure forging type of an Immortal Weapon, since neither of them would be able to inscribe the formation arrays needed for the other two types. Doing that would require them to be at the Immortal Realm themselves or need very complex formation arrays that they couldn't make.

Plus with the restrained amount of resources, they couldn't waste any either.

The requirements for all the resources were very high for an Immortal Weapon and despite the fact that Lin Mu and Jing Luo had a lot of them, the quantity of the grade of resources they needed was very low.

So much so that they could only attempt this all only once.

"Now!" Jing Wei shouted and Lin Mu poured the barrel full of molten metal over the base sword blade.

Chapter 1035 - Done With The Forging!

~HISS~

The sizzling of liquid metal could be heard as it coated the base of the sword blade. Even though the liquid metal was still very hot due to being liquid, the sword blade was far hotter.

"More!" Jing Wei ordered.

Lin Mu tilted the barrel again and more liquid metal poured over the sword blade. By now, the entire sword blade was doused in the liquid metal and it was hard to even see it. It didn't make sense to see liquid metal being poured over a sword.

This was after all, not a normal method that a weapon forger would use. Jing Wei had come up with this on his own, and it was entirely new.

And the effects of the new method were seen soon.

"It works!" Jing Luo said out loud.

The liquid metal that was being poured on the sword blade was being absorbed into it bit by bit. It was rather strange, as nothing like this had been done before.

~shua~

Runes appeared in the air as they helped guide the liquid metal into the sword blade.

Jing Wei watched the entire process with a hawk's gaze and made sure that nothing untoward happened.

Lin Mu kept on pouring more liquid metal from time to time as the sword blade absorbed more.

An hour passed like this, after which the entire barrel was finally empty.

~DENG~

Lin Mu placed the metal barrel down and gazed at the last drops of liquid metal that were now being absorbed into the sword blade. When that was finally over, the sword blade lightly hummed.

~HUMM~

Lin Mu could hear the humming of the sword deep in his head, as if it was trying to speak.

"Is it...?" Lin Mu couldn't help but wonder.

But just as he said that, the sword stopped humming.

"Not yet. Though we have finished the actual forging of the blade." Jing Wei replied.

"We have? But the blade has no edge or a proper shape yet." Lin Mu replied, feeling confused.

"The creation of its edge and its shape will take a while more. I'll have to do that on my own. You two are now free." Jing Wei stated.

"You don't need anymore help, grandfather?" Jing Luo questioned.

"No. The remaining part is mostly dependent on time now. The sword will temper itself in the forge and the edge will be formed by itself. The same can be said by the shape. Whatever it feels comfortable to be, it will become." Jing Wei answered.

"This means the spirit of the sword is already there?" Lin Mu asked.

"A wisp of it should have been born now. The hum we felt was that." Jing Wei replied.

Hearing it, Lin Mu was intrigued. He knew that the biggest difference between spirit weapons and Immortal Weapons was the immortal spirit. It could also be said to be the 'soul' of the weapon.

Only when the soul was born would the Immortal Weapon be truly made.

This was what the Myriad Armament Canopy Abode lacked. It was still unable to give birth to its own Immortal Spirit and needed for someone to control it.

The ability to automatically work was one of the biggest advantages of Immortal Weapons. One didn't need to divert their attention to control the Immortal Weapon. They could attack on their own and think as well.

Additionally, as long as the full power of an Immortal Weapon was not used, it would be able to restore its own Qi. This freed up the cultivator a lot more and they could fight longer.

Of course, if one wanted to use an Immortal Weapon to the full potential, they still needed to control it manually and use their own Qi with it.

~huu~

Lin Mu took a breath of relief after being done with it all and couldn't wait to see the finished product.

"How long till it will be completed, Old Man Jing?" Lin Mu asked.

"That is hard to tell. Though it should be not be too much. This is all new for us and I can't estimate the time either." Jing Wei replied.

"Let's just hope it is done as soon as possible." Jing Luo said in a joyful tone.

"Indeed." Lin Mu nodded his head.

"You two should go recover, or whatever you want to. In the meantime, I'll get the anti-jamming talismans ready." Jing Wei suggested.

"Yeah, that'll good grandfather." Jing Luo agreed. "Lin Mu can go check up on the Alliance too in this time." He added.

Lin Mu nodded his head and turned around to leave.

"Come on, Little Shrubby." Lin Mu called.

~shua~

The beast shrunk back to its smaller form and jumped onto Lin Mu's shoulder. They left the forging hall and exited War Castle Jing as well. Flying out of it, they headed to the exit of the Ancestral land.

It was right where Lin Mu had entered from before and since they knew about the location, he could quickly rush there.

"Here we are." Lin Mu said as he looked at the empty location.

"It should be almost time... I think." He muttered.

Jing Wei had told him before that once the time limit for the entry and exit was lifted, an outline of a gate should be present there.

About ten minutes later, the air in front of Lin Mu started to flicker.

"Oh! Seems like it's about to start." Lin Mu got ready.

~shua~

Runes appeared in the air as they arranged into the outline of a gate. Lin Mu extended his hand towards the gate and took a deep breath.

"Here we go..." Lin Mu said before his body disappeared, along with Little Shrubby.

He felt his body becoming weightless for a few seconds as his vision turned dark. And by the time it returned, he felt the ground in below him changing.

~HUMM~

But the moment he appeared, the jade slip on his waist started to hum non stop.

"Huh? Did something happen?" Lin Mu wondered.

But when he listened to the message, his eyes went wide.

Chapter 1036 - Sudden Assault!

Lin Mu had never thought that the worst thing he could have thought upon entering the Ancestral land had come true.

The message he got was exactly that.

"LIN MU! I can finally contact you!" Wu Hei's frantic voice could be heard. "The Gu Legion! They found the location of the Noon Grass sect and have mounted a full force attack!"

"WHAT!?" Lin Mu was stunned.

He knew that from all the top ten sects, the Noon Grass sect's location was the most secretive. It was mostly intentional on their part as it not only allowed them to survive all this time and kept them safe from conflicts.

The noon grass sect was important for the whole alliance as they were helping the other three sects of the alliance and provided cooperation, as well as a lot of resources from the Southern Great Forest.

The financial superiority the alliance had gained in the recent time came greatly from the Noon Grass Sect's help too. Especially since the valuable resources from the Great Southern Forest could be shipped to all over the empire in a very short time.

This allowed them great profits and gave them the free hand to suppress Gu Legion all this time.

The Noon Grass sect's unique position had made it so that the other sects too understood the importance and kept its location secret. The disciples of the Noon Grass sect were even directed to never leave the sect from its borders, since there was a chance of others finding them.

Instead, they were directed to use the Kong plane to leave from other directions.

Still, after the initial shock from Wu Hei's words faded away, Lin Mu remembered something.

"Wait, if the Noon Grass sect is being attacked, what are the Long Cloud sect and others doing? Haven't they provided support?" Lin Mu questioned.

"That's the problem! This attack is nothing like we've seen before. I don't know how, even I was in blind. No information was passed among the divisions of the Gu Legion. The order was given suddenly!"

The other sects can't help at all... There are Dao Treading Realm experts attacking!" Wu Hei answered in an anxious tone.

"Huh? Did The Zither Wind Alliance send out their Supreme elders or something?" Lin Mu still didn't understand how this was possible.

"No... that's the thing. These Dao Treading Realm cultivators are all new! There are over eleven of them attacking the four sects of our alliance!" Wu Hei explained.

Hearing this, Lin Mu felt his heart drop. He knew that even if the sects of the alliance had their own Dao Treading Realm cultivators, like their Patriarchs and Supreme elders, their numbers were limited.

Even combining the powers of the Four Sect's they barely had Nine Dao Treading Realm experts. With each expert holding down one, there would still be two that were free.

"I'm coming!" Lin Mu knew the situation was severe. He couldn't even inform Jing Luo and Jing Wei now.

He didn't know if the time would permit that. Wu Hei too did his best to tell him everything that had happened while Lin Mu journeyed to the Noon Grass sect.

The attack had started about three days ago and had come out of nowhere. While the Three sects of the Long Cloud Alliance were continually being suppressed and prevented from directly leaving their sects, the situation was still reasonable with them being able to use the Teleportation gates.

But then the Gu Legion had taken out a trump card of their own. This was something Wu Hei knew about in detail. It was a set of formation arrays that could forcefully block out a range of area.

They were very expensive and could imprison even Dao Treading realm experts for a certain time. And if there were others pouring their spirit Qi into it, the duration could be extended.

As soon as Lin Mu heard this, he knew that Gu Yao had been assisted by the Northern Tribes with this trump card. He had after all, suffered from a similar one in the past. The Imprisoning Seal went so far as to lock down space itself, preventing even the Teleportation gates from functioning.

The Gu Legion had obviously suspected that the Long Cloud alliance had possibly gained a way to move around with teleportation arrays or something. They were not stupid, and Gu Yao was possibly one of the smartest people in the empire.

It wouldn't take long for him to figure out the sudden advantage that the Alliance might have gained.

This in combination with the Communication Jade Slip jamming formations, made it so that even finding out about the attack was greatly delayed.

Though one thing was for sure, the target of this entire operation was the Noon Grass sect. The Gu Legion had sent out Dao Treading realm experts to lock down the three sects of the Long Cloud alliance while also attacking the Noon Grass sect.

The defensive formation array of the sect had managed to last for about a day and a half, but now even that had broken. Wu Hei had been trying to contract Lin Mu from the very moment he had gotten the information about the attack from Gu Yao, but it was certainly a bad time for them.

He had even tried going to the Kong plane but was unable to go to any of the sects.

At most, Wu Hei managed to ask for help from the Hong Lin Kingdom and the Fenlong Kingdom. The clans of the Fenlong Kingdom had already sent out people to support the Long Cloud sect.

Hong Lin Kingdom had instead gone to support the Noon Grass sect. But without the teleportation gates, the time needed for them to reach the locations was long. So far, none of them had reached there and were still on their way.

Lin Mu's fists clenched as he left the Kong Plane through the Hong Lin Kingdom's gate. This was the closest location, and he'd need to hurry.

"Little Shrubby... We need to give it our all!"

Chapter 1037 - Desperate Rush

Lin Mu didn't even stop to look at the people guarding the teleportation gate at the Hong Lin Kingdom and directly flew out from the castle. Though with a quick scan of his spirit sense gave him all the information that he needed.

He had already known that King Hong had left the Kingdom to support the Noon Grass sect already. Right now, Adviser Liu was the one taking care of the kingdom and they were all alert.

Since the sects had been attacked, there was no guarantee that the Hong Lin Kingdom wouldn't be attacked either. The Fenlong kingdom had already been attacked a few times till now.

This was mostly from the Mountain Brush Sect's people and the Kingdom of Shu army. Though they had been able to hold them back rather easily. The Mountain Brush Sect was not as strong as it used to be and their numbers had been lessened in the recent times.

Though the reason for it was unknown.

In fact, if not for the input from Wu Hei, they wouldn't have even known this. It was certain that the Horse Manticore had probably caused some issues in the Mountain Brush Sect. Though the exact reason was still a mystery.

~shua~

Little Shrubby returned to his full size, and Lin Mu strapped on to his back.

~RUMBLE~

Little Shrubby started running as his each step shook the ground. His thick legs were like the trunks of trees and the muscles rippled with power as they pushed him further and further.

~BOOM~

After a certain point, a loud sonic boom was heard as little Shrubby broke through the sound barrier.

Lin Mu leaned forward and held onto the harness while his eyes gleamed with a dark look. A myriad of thoughts went through his mind and multiple scenarios formed in his head. He was not sure what kind of a scene he was going to see once he was there and wanted to be prepared.

Jing Wei's words echoed in his mind. While he might have said it as a joke, Lin Mu truly didn't want his absence to have caused such an issue.

'No that's not all... the Dao Treading realm experts, how did they suddenly appear? Are they from the Northern Tribes? If so, then why have the top three sects not acted? I'm sure no matter what, they won't hold back of Northern Tribes' experts appear.

Not even Gu Yao would be able to hide their presences.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

"What if they aren't from the Northern Tribes?" Xukong suddenly spoke.

Hearing this Lin Mu narrowed his eyes.

"The Pills of grace... Did they somehow manage to push them to the Dao Treading realm?" Lin Mu couldn't help but wonder.

"It is indeed possible. They might have been preparing for this since the start. And it might have been their main goal too." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu found merit in the worlds.

If these new Dao Treading Realm cultivators were really from the sects of the Zither Wind Alliance, and the Gu Legion, the Top three sects wouldn't have a valid reason to interfere. While they would become really wary after this, since the power dynamic would certainly change, the Noon Grass sect would become history till then.

Never the less, Eleven Dao Treading Realm experts were a really great number and even with the top three sects combined they would barely match the numbers.

Each of the Top three sects had three Dao Treading Realm experts. At least in the open. There might be more hidden. But even those that are hidden won't be enough, as the Zither Wind Alliance would still have their patriarchs and supreme elders who too were at the Dao Treading realm.

Thus in reality, the number of Dao Treading Realm experts was higher than eleven. It could very easily be at twenty.

Compared to the Noon Grass sect, this number was massive. After all, they only had a single Dao Treading realm expert, Patriarch Hua.

There were no secret elders or ancestors that the sects of the alliance had. All of them had perished over the years, and the Noon Grass sect was the same. While this information was kept secret, it was still found out by the Gu Legion and thus they were brazen in their attack.

Lin Mu didn't know what more they had learned in this time.

The one saving grace Lin Mu and the alliance had right now was that the cultivation bases of their disciples were still decent. The Kong plane and other resources had served them enough to push their cultivation bases forward.

If anything, the disciples would have a greater chance of holding them back, at least.

'But in face of five Dao Treading realm cultivators, will this be enough?' Lin Mu wondered.

Each of the three sects in the Long Cloud alliance was being held back by two Dao Treading realm experts who imprisoned them with the formation array. This meant six Dao Treading realm experts blocked the other sects, while five of them attacked the Noon Grass sect.

Even the upgraded defensive formation arrays of the sect will only block them for so long.

Lin Mu simply hoped that he would get there in time. Even if he didn't know what he was going to do there, getting there was the first priority.

...

The people of the Noon Grass sect were currently in their biggest battle ever.

"HOLD THE LINES! DON'T LET THEM ANY FURTHER!" Hua Yi shouted.

Standing alongside him were hundreds of disciples of the Noon Grass sect. They had barricaded themselves around one peak, while the Gu Legion members surrounded them.

"FOOLS! You are only delaying the inevitable!" An elders spoke from the sky.

Dao Treading realm spirit Qi fluctuations came from him while the tens of Gu Legion members attacked the barrier, protecting the disciples incessantly.

~BOOM~

"See that?" The Dao Treading realm elder taunted. "Once your patriarch is dead, you all will be dead too!"

In the distance, an injured old man could be seen being knocked away by four Dao Treading realm experts!

Chapter 1038 - Cornered Like Rats

The disciples of the Noon Grass Sect could only watch with dread as the old man was assaulted from multiple sides.

"Master..." Hua Yi muttered with fear.

It had been nearly two days since the Gu Legion had managed to break into the Noon Grass sect and their master, Daoist Hua had been fighting since that very day. He alone was handling five Dao Treading realm cultivators, which was commendable.

While they didn't know what the exact stage these five Dao Treading realm cultivators were at, they guessed that they must not be at the same level as their master at the very least.

Most of the sect might not have known this, but Hua Yi and his other fellow disciples knew that their master was not just any Dao Treading realm cultivator, rather he was at the third and final stage of it, the Dao Comprehension stage.

While they were unqualified to know just what it meant to be at that stage, they did know that in the current world, this was possibly the highest cultivation base one could achieve by normal means.

There was indeed the Immortal Ascension realm above this, but it was something their master had told them only a few could ever hope to reach. Even he himself didn't know the requirement and the others that had reached it in the past weren't really open to speaking about them either.

Of course, there were other records from the past that talked about it and there were some theories that the requirements for it were greatly different for everyone. Then there was the fixed theory, which was often accepted as the most authentic one.

The theory said that the fewer numbers of Immortal Ascension realm cultivators were not because of a lack of cultivation talent or handwork, and neither was it due to the lack of resources.

But because there could only exist a certain number of them in a world at a single point in time.

And because of that, a lot of higher ups of sects and other powers accepted that until at least one of the Current Immortal Ascension realm cultivator died, no new ones could reach that realm.

Of course this didn't stop anyone from trying. The top three sects keeping the information about their immortal Ascension realm cultivators didn't help either.

But then there was the fact that in the past there were greater than just three Immortal Ascension realm cultivators. And after the death of the Northern Tribe Immortal Ascension realm cultivators, the common consensus about this was that there was indeed space for more Immortal Ascension realm cultivators.

It was all too convoluted, and most never needed to worry or think about it. And the ones who did need to think about it were greatly privileged.

And despite the fact that Daoist Hua was one of these privileged one he was still being beaten by the weaker Dao Treading Realm cultivators.

'Master was able to hold all five of them back before, but now he can only hold four of them back. This fifth one now has us cornered here...' Hua Yi thought.

Daoist Hua holding them back was also the reason why all the disciples had managed to survive till now. And not just that, but they had also defeated a lot of other Gu Legion members.

After all, the Gu Legion didn't just attack with these five Dao Treading realm cultivators, they brought a lot weaker cultivators, all the way from Qi refining realm to the Dao Shell realm.

They had managed to kill a majority of the weaker ones since the Noon Grass sect still had numbers on their side. But the Dao treading realm cultivators were not something the disciples could kill.

The elders had managed to kill over half of the Dao Shell realm cultivators as well, but now they had reached a stalemate with the injuries piling up.

Even Daoist Hua was injured and this gave one of the Dao Treading realm elders to go after the disciples.

Thankfully Jing Luo had been diligent in setting up the formation arrays around the sect and had prepared for something like this, just in case. One such was the defensive formation array that they were using.

There were multiple layers to it but the Gu Legion had already broken through most of them, leaving them with only the peak they were holed up in.

~Shua~

~BOOM~

The attacks of the Gu Legion continued as they bombarded the barrier. They didn't even need a formation master here as it would be faster for them to wear down the barrier rather than unravel it.

"Senior brother! The west side is getting unstable!" A cry was heard from the distance.

"Dammit!" Hua Yi cursed.

Looking towards the distance, he could see the runes getting weaker. Outside on that side of the barrier, he could see three Dao Shell realm cultivators attacking together.

They were using some kind of a skill that combined the power of all three. That was the reason why they could affect the barrier so much.

"Again! They won't be able to hide much more." One of the Dao Shell realm cultivators said as he brought his hands together.

His hands glowed in a dark grey aura before he thrust them forward. His companion Dao Shell realm cultivators did the same and similar grey aura appeared on their hands.

~shua~

As the aura shot forward, a violent spirit wave spread along with it. The three's attacks combined into one before morphing into what looked to be a pair of large horns. The horns charged towards the barrier as if it really were a beast carrying them and let out a rumbling sound.

~BOOM~

The barrier thrummed with spirit Qi, doing its best to hold back, while the disciples continued providing as much spirit Qi as they could.

Seeing this, Hua Yi knew that it would only get difficult for them from now on.

"Hua Er! Go and help them." He ordered.. "I'll hold this place."

Chapter 1039 - The Elders' Resolve

While the Disciples were doing their best to survive, the elders of the Noon Grass sect were starting to lose ground.

"Elder Sun, we need to retreat." One of the Dao Shell elders of the Noon Grass sect spoke.

"We can't afford that. If we do, men will go and attack the disciples too!" Elder Sun replied.

~WHOOSH~

And just as the elder said that, an attack was sent his way.

"You all are getting too complacent! As if you will be able to escape us anyway!" One of the Gu Legion members yelled.

~SHING~

A shield managed to block the attack before it ever reached Elder Sun, but the spirit tool sustained damage as well.

"Are you okay, elder Sun?" Elder Pigu asked.

He was the one who had blocked the attack.

"Barely... we are outmatched here." Elder Sun replied as he wiped the blood dripping from the side of his eye.

All the elders were injured, with Elder Sun being the most injured. The one saving grace that they did have though, was that they were yet to have any casualties on their end. It only showed how much their preparation was effective.

Even though they were now being pushed back, the Gu Legion was still the only one with any casualties.

It was something that had surprised even the Gu Legion members and infuriated them as well.

'How are we still unable to kill any of them? Master said the pills will make us more powerful?' The Gu Legion members thought.

"Enough!" A Dao Shell realm Gu Legion member said as he used a powerful technique.

~RUMBLE~

The very air itself shook as a mass of black energy formed above the man's head. The elder created waves in air and sucked in all the spirit Qi that it could.

"Careful!" Elder Pigu warned a couple of elders that were directly in the line of attack.

~SHUA~

The mass of black energy shot forward and increased its speed more and more.

"GAH!" One of the elders was unable to fully move and one of his legs was caught in the attack.

~SPLAT~

As if it were a beast, the black energy devoured the elders leg instantly and continued onwards. The elder barely managed to hold his scream in as he focused on retreating.

"NO!!" Elder Sun shouted, seeing the elder losing his leg.

"AGAIN! OTHERS JOIN IN TOO!" The Gu Legion member who had just attacked ordered.

Several different techniques and weapons were thrown at the elders while they attempted to block and dodge. The one elder who had lost his leg was unable to continue on and was finally caught in the barrage.

"NOOOO!!!!!!" The Noon Grass Sect's elders shouted as they finally saw one of them die.

The elder who was struck with the attack was entirely eliminated and no remains were left of him.

"CURSE YOU GU LEGION!" The elders yelled.

"We won't let you get away with this!" Elder Pigu said, his face filled with rage.

"Ahahaha! As if it matters once you all meet the same fate!" They taunted.

"Enough!" Elder Pigu said as he gritted his teeth.

His hand withdrew a pill bottle from his sleeve and its cap was quickly opened at the same time.

The elders who were near him saw this and were surprised, for they knew what was in the bottle.

"You can't use that Elder Pigu." Elder Sun said with disbelief.

"I have to. Only I can handle the pills effect, the others might not be able to fully take advantage of it." Elder Pigu replied darkly.

Then without giving the others to speak anything, he threw the pill into his mouth.

"WAIT—" Elder Sun tried to say more but it was too late.

As soon as the pill entered Elder Pigu's mouth, it melted and flowed down his throat. For a moment there, it was as if the entire area had fallen silent, but then in the very next instant a low pitched sound was heard.

~HONG~

As if the bells of a temple were ringing, the heart of Elder Pigu thudded non stop. A powerful aura surged from him and all the injuries he had sustained till now were healing visibly.

And that was not the end of it either. The wrinkles on his face and hands disappeared, as if he was returning to his youth. In just a few seconds, Elder Pigu turned from a middle aged man to a young man who had barely crossed his teens.

The Gu Legion members who saw it all were stunned. Not just because Elder Pigu had turned young, but also because the spirit Qi fluctuations coming from him were rapidly rushing.

"AAAAA!" Elder Pigu let out a loud shout as his Dao Shell appeared above him.

The Dao Shell was only half complete, yet now it was quickly turning into a complete sphere.

"WE HAVE TO STOP HIM!" The Gu Legion members frantically shouted.

"DON'T EVEN THINK!" Elder Sun and others countered.

Just a minute was all that Elder Pigu needed as soon, his Dao Shell was completed. And when that happened, he opened his eyes that were utterly bloodshot.

"This has been enough... time to end this." Elder Pigu said in a hoarse voice that surprise his fellow elders.

That was because while his appearance looked young, his voice was now older. Far older than it had been before.

Elder Pigu extended his hand and made a handseal.

~shaha~

A bright orange flame burned in his hand. He moved both his hands in a complicated gesture as spirit Qi fluctuations intensified. And just when he was done, he brought his hands together, with just the tips of his fingers touching each other.

"Never though I would reach this point only with a pill... I am a failure.." Elder Pigu muttered to himself.

~HUALA~

He parted his fingers as a small flame appeared between them. But what was different about the flame was that it was no longer orange, it had turned a deep blue.

"Time to show you how Pill Alchemists truly battle!"

Chapter 1040 - Flames Of His Life!

There was a great resolve in Elder Pigu's eyes as a newfound power filled him.

The deep blue flames on his hand were letting off a scorching heat. Even the Dao Shell realm cultivators of the Gu Legion that were standing some distance away could feel it. The grass on the ground had already dried up and combusted simply from the residual heat.

And it didn't stop there as the ground surrounding Elder Pigu started to get scorched black as well. This was when the flame wasn't even touching anything. It was on an entirely different level and was surprising to the Gu legion members.

"Careful!" A Gu Legion cultivator warned his companion.

~WHOOSH~

Flicking his index finger towards the Gu Legion member, Elder Pigu sent forth a small flame. It was very small, being only the size of a candle flame, and yet... the speed and heat it carried with it was devastating.

~BOOM~

The small candle like flame stuck the Gu Legion member before he could escape and exploded. It instantly covered his entire body and ate through all the defenses.

"AHHHHHHHH! GET IT OFF ME!!! NOO!!!!!" The Gu Legion member cried out in pain as all his defensive skills were useless against it.

His robes were reduced to ashes, and soon his skin started to melt. Within five seconds, a Dao Shell realm cultivator was reduced to a pile of ashes.

The other Gu Legion members couldn't help but feel a chill going down their backs, despite the intense heat in the area. Some of them tried to step back, but Elder Pigu instantly locked onto them.

~SHUA~

He flicked his middle finger towards them, and the flame that was burning on it shot towards another Gu Legion member.

"RUN!!!"

"Don't let it touch you!!!"

They all shouted, but the flame was still very fast. Despite their great speed at the Dao Shell realm, they were like turtles in front of the flame that moved like a cheetah.

The second flame struck a Gu Legion member and the same scene as before repeated. This man was able to survive for slightly longer, lasting for ten seconds, but in the end he still burned to ashes.

Elder Pigu's fellow elders looked at him and were stunned. The fierceness with which he had attacked the Gu Legion members was entirely different.

Usually, they were used to the jovial and happy Elder Pigu. He was a portly man that was also the head of their pill and herb pavilion. But today, he was different. He was a deadly warrior who could reduce his enemies to ashes with a flick of a finger.

But if one observed him closely, they would realize that what he was doing came at a great price. There was already a slight decrease in his aura with just two attacks. Additionally, when he had first ignited the deep blue flames on his hands.

There were ten such wisps of flames there, one on each finger. But now that he had used two, those fingers were gone as well.

That's right! Elder Pigu's fingers had combusted and reduced to ashes too!

And yet, there was no sign of pain or regret on his face. All there was present on his face was determination... determination to win and save his sect!

"SUMMON YOUR DAO SHELLS!" One of the Gu Legion members shouted.

"DO IT! WE CAN'T HOLD BACK ANYMORE!" He yelled again, seeing that his fellow members were hesitant.

"DAMN THIS!" They cursed and gestured with their hands.

There were six of them left, and they were in great danger now. The two weakest members among them were killed quickly, but they were also at the Shell initiation stage of the Dao Shell realm, thus didn't have Dao Shell's to use as trump cards later.

~HONG~

Strong spirit Qi fluctuations came from all six of them as illusory spheres came out of their bodies. Two of these spheres were fully solid, two were about 90% complete, while the last two were only half complete.

"HUMPH! You think just your Dao Shell's can save you from my flames! THESE ARE THE FLAMES OF MY LIFE! THEY SHALL BURN EVEN THE DEFENSES OF A DAO TREADING REALM EXPERT!" Elder Pigu scoffed.

~shua~ shua~

He directly used both his hands and flicked out four wisps of flames. They came from his pinkie fingers and ring fingers of both hands.

~HISS~

The very air itself hissed as the moisture started to heat up. The water from the nearby trees was also boiled out, turning into steam. But this steam was continually heated and reached a great temperature.

The heat from the four wisps of the deep blue flames made the steam travel along with it like a missile towards the Dao Shell Realm cultivators of the Gu Legion.

"Steam Burst Grinder!" Elder Pigu chanted.

It was now evident that this wasn't just a casual attack, but rather a proper skill!

In fact, it was a skill that wasn't originally meant for battles at all. Rather, it was a pill refinement skill used to extract water from spirit herbs and rapidly use the pressure to pulverize the same herbs.

This was supposed to be used in the confines of a pill refinement hall with proper safety formation arrays. Even the cauldron used for refinement needed to be very strong, and only the best Pill alchemists could even use this technique.

And yet Elder Pigu managed to convert it into an actual battle skill!

"BLOCK IT!" The Gu Legion members shouted.

~Rumble~

The strongest two brought forward their completed Dao Shells and bore the full brunt of the attack. The ones weaker than them, backed by the completed Dao Shell's making sure they weren't pushed back too much.

Then the last two did the same and suppressed the secondary damage from the wave of steam that was surging at them from all sides.

"HAAA!!!!!" The Gu Legion members struggled to bear the force.

~KACHA~

But in the end... they were unable to withstand it anymore.