

Walker 1041

Chapter 1041 - Till His Last Breath

The elders of the Noon Grass sect watched as the Dao Shells of the Gu Legion members cracked.

They were honestly stunned by the power shown by Elder Pigu and even Supreme Elder Hua Langya wasn't sure he'd be able to reach the same level of power. Though he was also injured quite a lot among the elders, as the initial assault had been blocked by him.

~Sigh~

'If elder Pigu can live after this, he would have been able to reach great heights...' Hua Langya thought with pity.

All the elders knew that Elder Pigu had used a self sacrificial technique in exchange for power. Right now, perhaps the strength of Elder Pigu was already at the Dao Treading realm.

Though he couldn't be considered a true Dao Treading realm cultivator, as he didn't have a Dao Embryo. At most, only the pure power exerted by him could reach that level. Additionally, the flames he was using were a level above the intermediate rank, it was the advanced rank Qi flame.

Something like this was not easy to achieve and perhaps in the entire Great Zhou Empire, the number of people who could ignite such flames could be counted on one hand. The ones that were greatly known for it were the patriarch, and the supreme elder of the Rainbow pill sect, the patriarch of the Light Harmony sect, both of which were pill sects.

Then there was one elder of the Sky Precepts sect who could do the same. Finally... now there was Elder Pigu who had achieved the same. But it came at great cost. Burning his very life force was the price to ignite such flames.

But its power was evident...

One had to know that they needed Advanced Rank Qi flames to even think of refining Pseudo-immortal rank pills.

Such pills were very rare in the empire and only a handful had ever been made. The complex part was that there were people who had the advanced rank Qi flame to refine a pill like that, but they lacked Immortal grade spirit herbs.

The heat of the flames could melt even Immortal Grade metals, so the Dao Shells of the Gu Legion members were nothing.

~BOOM~

"ARGH!!!" One of the Gu Legion members couldn't withstand the backlash from their Dao Shells exploding and directly died.

The other one pulled out all his trump cards, using talismans after talismans, while also popping pills like a maniac before he was able to keep his life. But even then, his Dao Shell was gone and so was his cultivation base.

The ones behind him were slightly better, but even then there were great cracks on their Dao Shells. Only the two weakest Dao Shell realm Legion members were fine now. But this was only pertaining to their Dao Shell. Their skin and robes were still burned from the steam.

Large boils could be seen on their skin and face, some of which started to pop from the rippling air.

"Haaaa.... Haaa... Haaa..." The Gu Legion members panted, hard for breath, and felt woozy.

Now the two weakest Dao Shell Gu Legion members were the strongest among the six. With the four in front of them falling behind in cultivation base.

"We—" The Gu Legion members wanted to say something, but Elder Pigu didn't give them a chance.

"DIE!" He decisively threw out two more wisps of the deep blue flames and burned the remaining six Dao Shell realm Gu legion members to death.

By now, Elder Pigu's left fingers were all gone and only the index and middle finger of his right hand were left.

His aura had also fallen by half and it was evident that he wouldn't be able to last much longer.

~Pant~

Elder Pigu took deep breath as he stumbled lightly.

"Elder Pigu!" Supreme Elder Hua Langya quickly helped him.

"You need to rest Elder Pigu, you've done enough." Elder Sun said with great concern.

"No.... I can't... not at this point..." Elder Pigu said between his breaths.

He looked at the two wisps of deep blue flames on his remaining fingers for a second before standing up again.

"I need to use them... perhaps we'll be able to get rid of another chunk of those vile beasts." Elder Pigu said.

"You'll die, Elder Pigu, you can't do this!" Elder Sun protested.

"I'll die even if I don't do it... at least this way, I'll die for a cause I'm dedicated to..." Elder Pigu said.

And before anyone could speak again, he flew away towards the peak where all the Disciples were holed up.

"FOLLOW HIM! We can't let him do this alone!"

"Yeah, we need to save the disciples too!"

The elders flew after Elder Pigu, but were still slower than him. With the boost Elder Pigu had, his speed was blinding. In just under a minute, he was already at the peak and gazed at the scene.

"YOU SHALL ALL DIE!" He shouted with rage as he saw a few disciples dying.

In the time that the elders were fighting, the Gu Legion members had managed to create an opening in the barrier.

"Huh?" The Gu Legion members were surprised by the sudden arrival of the young man with an old voice.

The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member though felt his instincts shouting, and he felt danger.

"NO! GET BACK!" he immediately shouted to his subordinates.

Unfortunately for him, he was a tad too late.

~WHOOSH~

A single wisp of flame shot from Elder Pigu's middle finger and ran through the Gu Legion members like an ocean tide. Wherever it went, piles of ashes fell to the ground.

The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member anxiously tried to retreat, but Elder Pigu wasn't gonna give him the chance.

"I'll kill you even if I have to use my last breath!" Elder Pigu said as he shot the final wisp of deep blue flame towards the man.

~WOOM~

The Dao Threading Realm elder summoned several spirit tools to defend as a great explosion happened.

Chapter 1042 - One Life For Thousands

The fellow elders of Elder Pigu watched everything with pained hearts.

They were slower than him for the time being and weren't able to assist him at that time. But Elder Pigu never had the intention to take any help. He was ready to exchange his single life with hundreds of thousands of others.

~CLANG~

~BOOM~

~DENG~

Various spirit tools and talismans exploded as they were unable to bear the might of Elder Pigu's final attack. The last Deep Blue flame he had sent out contained the final wisps of his life and increased its power by several times.

"AAAAHHHHHHH!" The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member let out a yell as he tried to resist the attack.

He was the weakest among all the current Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members that had come here, and could barely be considered a step into it. Considering his and Elder Pigu's power, they were almost the same.

If it were not for the Dao Embryo, the man had birthed, he would be eliminated instantly.

"This can't be!! I won't accept this!!!" The Gu Legion member shouted.

Gritting his his teeth, he summoned his Dao Shell, and along with it, his Dao Embryo!

When the two objects appeared, the last defensive spirit tool he had used broke apart.

~WHOOSH~

The flames rushed towards him, threatening to devour him. One could even see the several faces in the flames. But in the next moment, they would disappear. They looked like a hallucination, and all the faces were of none other than Elder Pigu.

The faces were filled with rage that powered the fire.

"DAO SHELL! DEFEND!" The Dao Treading Realm Gu Legion elder called out.

The Dao Shell shot forward to protect him. But looking at the Dao Shell, one could tell that it wasn't particularly normal. It was of a strange muddy brown color and mixed in it were gray splotches.

The Dao Embryo lying within it couldn't even be seen easily. The Dao Shell too wasn't that big, being merely 90 centimeters in diameter. This was smaller than a lot of Dao Shell's, since most cultivators would try to expand theirs to at least a meter wide.

Perhaps only those that ended their Dao Shell realm at the Shell completion stage would be at this point. At this man was the same, having been pushed to the Dao Treading realm in some strange way.

~shua~

The Dao Shell let out a light which turned into a dome. The illusory dome acted as a shield and blocked the tongues of deep blue flames. But even then, it didn't seem to be enough...

~CRACK~

"WHAT?!" The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member was stunned.

The Shield created by his Dao Shell had actually developed his crack.

'Didn't they say that Dao Treading realm cultivators were supreme? No one could challenge them easily and those below them could only die like worms. Then how?! HOWWWWW!?' The Gu Legion member shouted in his mind.

Gritting his teeth, he knew he now had no choice. The cracks were starting to spread on his Dao Shell's shield and the deep blue flames didn't show any signs of slowing down.

"DAO EMBRYO! RISE!" The Gu Legion member shouted.

He knew that using his Dao Embryo prematurely like this will probably stunt his cultivation right here. But he didn't care for that anyway. He was already a man who had lost his way in cultivation and was unable to progress past the Dao Shell realm in the past.

He couldn't even expand his Dao Shell and was stuck in the Shell completion stage. He was possibly one of the weakest Dao Shell realm cultivators and his lifelong dream was to reach the Dao Treading Realm.

He thought that he would be forever unable to and now he had finally achieved his goal. With the help of his lord, he rose. And he fully intended on fulfilling his lord's goals since his own had been completed.

Such was the dedication that was incited within him by his lord Gu Yao!

~RUMBLE~

A strange sound was heard coming from the Dao Shell of the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member. It trembled and let out a cry!

~SKREEE~

Then in the next moment, cracks appeared on the Dao Shell!

This was a shocking thing and if it happened to anyone else, it would be the same as their cultivation base regressing or even getting crippled!

And yet, the cultivation base of the Gu Legion member seemed to stay the same.

The Dao Shell continued to crack, and if one looked closely, they would see that the cracks were not spreading randomly. Rather, the crack was a smooth circular crack that covered the top of the Dao Shell.

Then... as if a lid had been opened, the top of the Dao Shell rose.

~slick~

A strange, uncomfortable sound came from it as a gooey mass flew out of it. A brown tarry liquid wiggled and writhed in the air.

"Unholy Blood Puddle! Consume!" The Gu Legion member ordered.

~SKWEE~

This strange brown tarry liquid was none other than the Dao Embryo! And it was called as the Unholy Blood Puddle!

The Dao Embryo suddenly expanded and turned into a large curtain. The curtain exceeded past the limits of the shield made by the Dao Shell and covered it. But it didn't stop there either.

The muddy curtain continued to spread and went past the deep blue flames, covering them entirely.

~SLACK~

Then as if a large mouth had been closed, the mud curtain closed its seams and shut the Deep Blue Flames within it. The flames tried to escape and released great heat, and yet they were unable to do anything.

The bulging mass of curtain wiggled, trying to contain the deep blue flames. After a few seconds, it finally calmed down and the bulge flattened. Once that was done, the curtain shrank and turned back into the original form of the Unholy Blood Puddle.

It quickly returned to the Dao Shell as if afraid.

Chapter 1043 - Fueling Vengeance

The Dao Treading realm Gu legion member had turned pale after using his Dao Embryo and was visibly tired. He looked at his subordinates below and saw that barely ten percent of them were now left, the rest being turned to ashes by the Deep Blue flames.

"Dammit! We were supposed to win this..." The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member said angrily.

This was the single biggest loss they had suffered in one blow ever since the start of the assault. All the others that had died were at least at the hand of an equal offense by the Noon Grass sect.

But this... this was all done by one man.

Though if the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member were to know that several more Dao Shell realm members of theirs had also died under the hands of the same man that killed the subordinates, he would cry tears of blood.

Unfortunately for him, he was going to meet them soon.

"DIE!" Just before the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member could recall his Dao Shell with his Dao Embryo, a cry was heard.

~SHING~

"GAH!" The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member spat out a mouthful of blood.

He looked at his chest that was burning with pain, and saw a spear jutting out of it.

"DIE!"

"DIE!"

"DIE!"

"DIE!"

Several more cries were heard as four more weapons stabbed into his body. One went into his stomach, one to his spine, one to his lungs, and finally one to the skull.

Before the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member could even react, his life was extinguished. Even his Nascent soul was destroyed at the same time with the power of multiple spirit weapons coursing through his Dantian.

~THUD~

The corpse of the man fell lifelessly to the ground as the Elders of the Noon Grass sect finally appeared. Their faces were red with anger and their eyes bloodshot.

"CURSE THEM ALL!" Supreme elder Hua Langya yelled in rage.

He spat at the dead Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member and looked at his fellow elders.

"Elder Pigu's sacrifice wasn't in vain, he finished the goal he set out to." Elder Sun said.

All the elders wanted nothing more to shout, but they still had duties to do.

"Take the body of Elder Pigu. We will need to have the funeral later." Supreme elder Hua Langya spoke.

One of the elders quickly went to take the burned and damaged body of Elder Pigu, that was lying at the foot of the peak. Storing it into his Spatial storage tool, he returned to the other elders.

The elders gazed at the remaining Gu Legion members with a cold look.

The disciples who were holed up on the peak had similar expressions too. They had after all, witnessed Elder Pigu sacrificing himself for them.

The other sects often thought that the Noon Grass sect was weak and was like greenhouse flowers, unable to survive in the true world. This was perhaps true on some level and Daoist Hua and other elders knew this.

The current generation was rather peaceful as compared to the past. Some of the elders had fought in the wars and knew how they truly were.

The newer generation had barely started to witness it after Lin Mu created the alliance and yet... they had not gotten the reality stabbed into their brains yet.

And finally... that was shown to them.

Maybe it was Elder Pigu's goal as well, but that is something which went away with his life.

"Elder Pigu..." A few disciples said in low voice, their throats feeling as if they were being squeezed.

Hua Yi and his fellow juniors clenched their fists, their nails digging into their palm and drawing blood.

The lips of Hua Er trembled as she stared daggers at the Gu Legion members that were still left.

"KILL THEM ALL! LEAVE NONE ALIVE!" Hua Yi gave out the orders.

Then, in less than a second, the barrier of the peak was lowered as the disciples fearlessly rushed into the fray. They didn't care that there were still stronger Gu Legion members left there. They simply wanted to kill and reap lives.

They wanted revenge! THEY WERE OUT FOR BLOOD!

The Gu Legion members were quickly overwhelmed by the sudden assault of the disciples and couldn't even react. The elders of the Noon Grass sect watched their disciples fighting with great fervor for the first time.

"Elder Pigu might have given our sect more than we thought... he gave the new generation vengeance to pursue." One of the elders muttered.

"Perhaps we might see the show of talent from many disciples... this should do them good." Elder Sun spoke.

"Still... was the cost worth it?" Hua Langya asked, but none replied, for they knew the answer very well.

~BOOM~

Another explosion was heard in the distance and pulled the attention of the elders.

~TREMBLE~

They watched as one of the peaks in the distance started to move and finally collapsed.

"The third peak!"

"PATRIARCH!"

The elders hurriedly flew towards it. They still had to support Patriarch Hua while the man fought against the four remaining Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members.

"HURRY! HURRY!" Supreme elder Hua Langya urged.

They knew that even if they were not a match for the Dao Treading realm Gu legion members, they still had to try and support the patriarch. Even if they couldn't kill those Gu Legion members, they could at least take of some part of weight from their patriarch's back.

...

Near the third peak that had just collapsed, a bloodied and skinny old man rose from the rubble. There were several injuries on his body and one of his eyes was gone as well.

~ptui~

Spitting out a few teeth he glared at the enemies in front of them.

"How long will you struggle Daoist Hua? Don't you see? Your end is already here!" one of the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members taunted.

"Never! The Noon Grass sect shall not perish to the likes of you traitors!"

Chapter 1044 - Noon Moon Paling

Daoist Hua would be lying if he didn't admit that he wasn't afraid. He was afraid of losing his sect, losing the life that he had built and disappointing the many that relied on him. More than that, he knew that if his sect fell, it would be a great blow to the alliance.

And if something weakened the only thing stopping the doom of the Xiaofan world, the doom would only speed up.

"Look at your sect! It is burning, it is crumbling and your disciples are dying! Feel it! FEEL IT ALL!" The Gu Legion members' continued to taunt.

"YOU DARE!" A mix of shouts was heard at this time as five elders appeared.

Daoist Hua spotted them, and his eyes went wide.

"What are you all doing here? Get away!" Daoist Hua warned.

"HAHAHA! More bugs for us to kill!" The Gu Legion members said.

"Do you think it will be that easy?" Supreme Elder Hua Langya scoffed.

All the elders gathered their powers and executed a formation array. They had known very well that challenging multiple Dao Treading realm cultivators would be a mistake. They might be able to handle one of them, but not more than that.

Additionally, they were here to help their patriarch and not burden him with the need to keep them safe as well.

The five elders stood together in a circular order and created hand seals, with the supreme elder taking the lead.

"Noon Moon Paling Formation Array!" The Supreme elder chanted.

~shua~

Under the control of the five elders, five lines of runes shot up from above their heads. The lines soared into the sky and could be seen from several kilometers away.

"What is that!?" A disciple at the peak said in surprise.

A few that were paying attention in that direction spotted it quickly, too. This included Hua Yi and Hua Er.

"Isn't that?" Hua Er furrowed her brows.

"It is indeed... Seems like the elders are going against the really strong ones now." Hua Yi replied.

"How much does that formation even cost? When master taught us five that, he gave us over a thousand high grade spirit stones each to practice it. And even then, we were barely able to execute it once after several years." Hua Er wondered.

"Whatever it may be... even if it drains our sect, it will be worth it. Besides, the elders have had many decades of practice, several more than us. They should be able to handle it." Hua Yi replied.

The two direct disciples of the Patriarch were the only ones who were free enough to talk right now. The other three disciples were busy killing the last remaining dregs of the Gu Legion. They had already killed most of them and only a handful were remaining now.

Under the incessant and fierce slaughter, the Gu Legion members were unable to bear it. Even those at the Dao Shell realm were barely enough to hold them back and even then, one of them had died.

The last one was on his final breaths and was simply defending, unable to attack anymore.

Hua Yi and Hua Er focused on the battle in the distance, hoping that their master and elders could win. And just as they were watching, they saw the five lines starting to move. They started to bend in the sky and joined up.

~HONG~

As if a bell had been rung, the five lines collided and the runes composing them merged together into a large sphere. The sphere was at least twenty meters wide and was illusory. Spirit Qi started to pour into it from the air, but it didn't seem like it was enough to condense it fully.

"DO IT NOW!" The Supreme elder shouted.

Then, on his order, the elders started to pour out all their spirit stones. The supreme elder did the same and the spirit stones floated in the air. As if the sphere in the sky had become a magnet, the spirit stones shot towards it.

~Whoosh~

Tens of thousands of spirit stones of all qualities rose in the sky at great speed, looking like fireworks. They were quickly pulled into the sphere as it started to condense into a physical form.

"Don't let them try anything more. Attack now!" A Gu Legion member urged.

"Die!" One of them attacked the five elders while the remaining three held back Daoist Hua.

The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member's attack was in the form of an illusory first imprint. It was the size of a bull and contained great power. It destroyed the objects in its path, and as long as something was within ten meters of it, it would be pulverized!

The five elders were fearless, though. They didn't even so much so as blink and watched it with stern eyes. Even when it was mere inches away from them and was about to hit them, they didn't react.

And it was at this very moment that something happened.

~KLANG!~

A ray of light appeared out of nowhere and stuck the fist imprint launched by the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion. It seemed tiny compared to the large imprint and yet... the result was astounding.

"What?!" The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion who had attacked was stunned.

The fist imprint was like a balloon deflating as the light ray erased it completely.

"Humph! Our Noon Grass sect isn't without inheritance either!" One of the five elders scoffed.

"Behold our legacy! Noon Moon Paling Formation array!" The Supreme elder gestured at the sphere in the sky.

"IS THAT A MOON?!" More disciples had taken notice of the battle in the distance and spotted the appearance of the new object in the sky.

"They did it..." Hua Er muttered.

"I never knew it could be this big." Hua San said in surprise.

Daoist Hua smiled seeing the five elders' actions and knew that this was the come back they needed.

~CRACK~

~CRACK~

His fingers cracked and popped, as he clenched them into fists.

"Time to end this!"

Chapter 1045 - Noon Of Life

The four Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members were at a loss seeing the appearance of a new moon above them. They knew that it wasn't a realm moon and was merely a formation array construct, but the feeling of danger they were getting from it was no less threatening than the old man they had been battling since the start.

Even if they had been taunting and humiliating the old man since the start, they also knew that they were unable to kill him outright. If it were not for the fact that the old man was trying to contain them here and preventing them from causing damage to places where disciples of the sect might be hiding, he would have probably managed to kill at least one of them.

They had not forgotten the warning of their lord before.

'Even if you all have reached the Dao Treading realm with my grace, don't take the Patriarch of the Noon Grass sect lightly. He is from the same generation of the old experts that repelled the Northern Tribes in the last great battle.

He has faced a great beast above the Immortal Ascension realm and lived to tell the tale. Even if he had faced it with many others, that is no less of an achievement. He has lived long... longer than most patriarch and elders of the top sects.

Don't think that he hasn't accumulated any trump cards.' The words of Gu Yao echoed in their ears again.

And now, they were witnessing the same. But they had not expected that the patriarch didn't keep his trump cards to himself, but entrusted it to his people instead.

"HAIL!" The Supreme elder Hua Langya chanted and pointed at the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members.

~HUALA~

The moon in the sky trembled and several spots appeared on it.

~SHUA~SHUA~SHUA~SHUA~SHUA~

Tens of light rays shot out of it and targeted the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members. One of them who was a little slow to dodge, got hit with one of them and felt pain in his hand.

"What?" The man was stunned to find a hole in his hand now.

The hole was small, just slightly bigger than that of a crochet needle, but it was still something terrifying.

He looked up and was unfortunately struck with another light ray.

"ARGH!" This time, the light ray struck him in the shoulder, piercing cleanly through.

~picha~

A small jet of blood gushed out along with the attack, creating a clear trajectory in the air.

"DON'T LET THE LIGHT RAYS HIT YOU!" one of the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion warned.

All of them started to fly around, doing their best to dodge and defend them. One thing they had seen was that their personal defensive treasures were useless against these light rays. They could pierce through the defenses as if they didn't even exist.

Unfortunately for them, this was just the start and there was one person they had momentarily forgotten about.

~BOOM~

~KACHA~

"ARGH!" One of the Gu Legion members let out a grunt of pain and was knocked away.

In his place appeared none other than Patriarch Hua. His fists were tightly clenched and his aura soared like never before.

"Time to end this!" He said fiercely as his eyes turned bloodshot.

His bony and skinny body let off vitality that was unusual and unnatural for him. Till a few seconds ago, he seemed to be half a step into the domain of death and now he was like a youthful man filled with endless vitality.

"NOON OF LIFE!" One of the five elders recognized.

"Patriarch finally used it!" Another one of them said.

"This is the best time for it. No use keeping it sealed for any longer." The supreme elder nodded his head and continued his attacks.

He pointed at the moon and then brought the finger towards the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member, as more rays of light rained towards them.

Daoist Hua too, didn't pause and let off one attack after the other. With a single punch, he sent another one of the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members flying and with a kick, he split the already crumbled peak into half.

'What is this power? Did the old man consume some drugs?' the Gu Legion members were astounded.

And it was a proper reaction as it truly was a skill that was worth it.

This was the top technique of the Noon Grass sect. It was called as the 'Noon of Life' and only the patriarch and his direct disciples could practice it. The technique was something that had a long cool down and strict requirements.

This was also why only the patriarch could learn this, or rather only the person who could learn this technique would become the patriarch of the Noon Grass sect.

Noon Of life was actually part of the true cultivation technique of the Noon Grass sect and the ones who were the most talented in it would be able to learn the top level skill such as it.

It worked by storing a part of the users' spirit Qi and vitality sealed in their bodies. This energy would keep on stockpiling for at least a decade. That was the minimum amount that was needed to use it once.

Its upper limit was two hundred years and beyond that it needed to be unsealed. Of course, one didn't need to unseal it completely. Merely letting off a part of it was enough. It was similar to emptying an overflying tank.

Its benefits were obvious. Noon Of life allowed the user to gain a great amount of power for a limited time period. At an accumulation of two hundred years, one could even battle an expert entire realm above them!

This was an absolutely terrifying ability when used properly and at the right time.

And in case of Daoist Hua, who had sealed it for just a few years less than two hundred years, its power was even greater.

Chapter 1046 - Tilting The Scales Of Battle-I

Daoist Hua channeled his power and raised his hand that faintly glowed.

"REND!" He said as he moved his hand like a sword.

A slash shot out of his hand, splitting apart everything in its path, along with a Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member's arm!

"ARGH!" The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member cried in pain.

His right hand had been severed, and it flew off. But that was not all. The hand that had been severed was further hit by the light rays coming from the Noon Moon Paling's moon in the sky.

This utterly destroyed the hand and left no option for the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion to ever get it back. If it was still intact and he managed to get it back, he might have had a chance to reattach it in the future.

Even if he was at the Dao Treading realm, regrowing an arm was many times harder than reattaching one. In fact, the higher one's cultivation base went the harder it would get to regrow a limb or body part.

This was due to the fact that there was a greater distance that needed to be crossed when comparing the quality of a cultivator's flesh. The higher one went in cultivation, the better their body would be and the more it would cost to replace a limb.

This was why most experts were fine with bodily injuries, as long as they weren't on the level of losing a limb or other part entirely. The holes that the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion had sustained in their bodies were something that could be eventually healed.

But not the loss of a limb.

"DAMMIT!" the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member who had lost an arm cursed and swallowed a couple of pills to stop the bleeding.

But his eyes went wide as the Patriarch appeared beside him in the blink of an eye.

Daoist's Hua's fingers were all straightened as he thrust his hand towards the side of the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member.

"NO!" The man shouted and tried to defend.

He threw out a talisman that created a temporary shield, but it was useless.

~kacha~

The shield shattered under the stab of the patriarch Hua's hand and the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion barely managed to dodge it. Even then, the tip of the patriarch's middle finger managed to prick the man, drawing blood and cracking one of his ribs.

"Don't think you'll get luck anymore." Daoist Hua said as he sprinted towards the other Dao Treading realm Gu Legion who was near him.

~shua~

He moved like a shark through the water and let out multiple attacks.

~boom~

~Bang~

~clang~

The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members did their best to block them, but their injuries kept on piling up. Daoist Hua's attacks combined with the suppression from the Noon Moon Paling made it very difficult for the Gu Legion.

The Noon Moon Paling's light rays didn't cause much damage, but they did cause the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members to divert their attention a little too much. This was very dangerous when the patriarch was attacking them.

'This won't be enough... I don't know if we can make him exhaust the time limit of his skill at this rate.' One of the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members understood.

He could very easily tell that the patriarch's skill was possibly something similar to a self sacrifice skill. But at the same time, it was far too stable to be called as the same. He reckoned that it would come to an end at a certain point, but they couldn't rely on that.

If the time was beyond an hour, they were sure to die.

Then there was also the fact that the Noon Moon Paling was attacking incessantly under the control of the five elders.

They had tried attacking the five elders to get the formation array to stop, but even that was impossible. The Noon Moon Paling surrounded the five elders and created an unreachable domain.

A very strong attack, many times stronger than the normal light rays would strike them and it was something that may not kill them, but injure them just enough so that Daoist Hua would be able to take them out.

And that was now an outcome they wanted, of course. Even if one of them died here, they knew for sure the others would die too. They were only able to keep up their barrage because there were four of them to bear the burden.

"Release your Dao Embryo's! We can't afford a stalemate anymore!" the leader of the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members, stated.

Hearing this, the others were certainly astonished, but they knew they had to do this.

The five elders were surprised upon hearing this too, but for different reasons.

"Patriarch! Be careful of their Dao Embryos! If they are anything like the other Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member that Elder Pigu killed at the cost of his life, it would be able to consume attacks!" Supreme elder Hua Langya warned.

"WHAT?" Both Daoist Hua and the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members were shocked upon hearing this.

Daoist Hua because Elder Pigu had died, and the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members because they didn't even know their fifth member had died already.

They were thinking of even regrouping with him if given the chance and increase their offense, but now that was not an option. And they didn't think that the Supreme elder was bluffing either, otherwise the ability of their Dao Embryo wouldn't be known to them.

This was a secret ability that they gained after their Dao Embryo was born. All of them had the same Dao Embryo, and it was due to the efforts of Lord Gu Yao that they gained it too.

"DO IT NOW!" The leader of the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion ordered.

~SHUA~

At that moment, several Dao Shells appeared!

Seeing the tide of the battle changing again, Daoist Hua reacted quickly.

Chapter 1047 - Tilting The Scales Of Battle-II

~huu~

Daoist Hua took a deep breath and condensed an orb of spirit Qi between his palms. By cupping them together, he shaped the orb and created what looked like a long hook.

The spirit Qi bursting from his body formed into a thin chain that attached to the hook and the patriarch swung it towards the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members who had just summoned their Dao Shells.

"Not so fast!" Daoist Hua said as he activated his ability.

~WHOOSH~

The long hook soared through the air and latched onto the Dao Shell that was closest to it. The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion whom the Dao Shell belonged to tried to dodge it, but the hook was like a needle being attracted to a magnet.

The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member whose Dao shell was hooked was shocked and tried to resist.

"LET GO!" He said, but his control over the Dao shell was weakening.

"Vein Ripper Hook! TEAR!" Daoist Hua ordered.

~CLANG~

Suddenly the chain attached to the long hook tightened and started to pull.

~KACHA~

The hook directly tore open a wide crack on the Dao Shell, inflicting damage on the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member as well.

~COUGH~

The man coughed out blood due to the backlash, but didn't stop what he was doing. In fact, now that the Dao shell had another bigger crack, the Dao Embryo within it managed to leave even quickly.

~slick~

~SKWEE~

The strange puddle like Dao Embryo let out a cry which was really annoying and irritating.

"PIERCE!" The Supreme elder didn't let this chance go and controlled the Noon Moon Paling to release another attack.

This attack was the strongest it could unleash and was a light beam that condensed into a spear and shot towards the Dao Embryo.

~SHING~

The Light spear pierced the Dao Embryo with ease, making it cry out in pain.

This was a very strange and unusual scene for all of them, as they knew very well Dao Embryo didn't behave like this. Even if they had some level of sentience, it was at most on the level of a spirit weapon.

A Dao Embryo was part of a cultivator and couldn't become fully conscious, as it would go against the laws of nature. Rather, it would be really bad as it was the same a split personality being created in a person's mind.

For cultivator this would be similar to a mental demon being born. And since it would be their Dao Embryo itself, which could very quickly affect their cultivation base, it would cause even greater damage.

If it could wrest control from the cultivator, it would pretty much cripple the cultivator and return them to the Nascent soul realm if not out right kill them.

But just as the five elders were feeling good about dealing damage to the Dao Embryo, it started to writhe more.

~GUA~

A mouth opened up on the Dao Embryo and it started to consume the Light Spear that was struck in it. The supreme elder and patriarch watched with surprise as it successfully managed to consume the light spear.

And not just that, it actually recovered from the injury that the very same light spear had dealt it.

"HAHAHA! YOU ALL WILL NOW SEE THE TRUE POWER! THE TRUE POWER OF THE UNHOLY BLOOD PUDDLE!" The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion member whose Dao Embryo this was laughed madly.

One could see that the backlash had created some mental effects already and there was a great chance the man would not be able to recover from that easily. His aura was already getting unstable.

~CRACK~

But while all this happened, it had also given the three Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members enough time to open their Dao Shell's and let out their Dao Embryos.

~SKWEE~!!!!

An irritating cry was let out by all four Dao Embryos. It was loud enough that even the disciples in the distance could hear it.

"Disgusting fiends!" Daoist Hua cursed and threw the long hook towards the Dao Embryos.

~SHUA~

Its speed was still rather quick and a Dao Embryo got caught in it immediately. But just as the patriarch was about to pull the hook and tear the body of the Dao Embryo, something different happened.

~splat~

The other three Dao Embryos all rushed towards the Dao Embryo that was being attacked and merged with it.

"What in the name of heavens..." Elder Sun said, feeling a little afraid.

The aura of the Dao Embryo spiked, and a very repulsive feeling rose from it.

~CLANG~

The chain attached to the long hook was stretched taught and the Dao Embryos, which had now combined, started to pull the hook into it.

~THUD~

Daoist Hua directly landed on the ground and dug his feet into the ground, making it so that it was hard for the Dao Embryo to pull further.

~SHUA~ SHUA~ SHUA~

But just as he was starting to defend, a bunch of attacks suddenly hit him.

"HAHAHA! Do you think we'll just let you do whatever you want? FEEL THIS!" One of the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members taunted as he threw out several spirit weapons.

Since the Dao Embryos were now attacking independently from the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members, they were free to attack as they wanted. This was the same as gaining a new member and a new stalemate had now been reached.

In fact, the situation was now tilting a bit towards the Gu Legion again.

Daoist Hua was stuck there, trying to pull back the Vein Ripper Hook while the five elders used the Noon Moon Paling to prevent the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion members from getting close to them.

But even then, the four of them were now gaining ground. They had adapted to the attacks of the Noon Moon Paling and were able to dodge better.

"Your end is near Noon Grass sect!" The Gu Legion members taunted.

But just as they were about to attack with full force, a sound echoed.

~ROAR!!!!~

Chapter 1048 - Suppression

Once the Roar came, the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Members, along with Daoist Hua and the five elders, felt like their world was shaking.

But this was merely the start of it all. Along with the roar came two auras. One of them was infused into the very roar itself, and was fiery like the fiercest of volcanoes. While the second was different. It was cold, sharp, and murderous.

If the first aura was beastly and represented domination, the second one was utterly terrifying and only meant to kill. All the people that were in the area felt their souls shaking. Even the disciples in the distance at the peak felt something change.

"Why am I getting this feeling?" Hua Er muttered as she saw the goosebumps on her hand.

Hua Yi and Hua San felt something too, shivering lightly.

"This... does not feel right." Hua Yi muttered.

~BOOM~

And just as he said that, everyone could witness a fiery explosion in the distance where the elders were.

"What?!"

The five elders witnessed the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Member who was about to reach them, being knocked away by a flaming claw. The claw let off scorching heat and if it were not for the Noon Moon Paling protecting them, they might have burned as well. The flaming claw sent the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Member flying while also injuring him.

His defenses were broken though and his robes were burning now. The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Member could not be seen due to the speed at which he had been sent flying. The senses of the

elders couldn't even feel it happening. Additionally, the spirit qi in the air was far too turbulent now, making it only that much harder to sense anything.

~GRRRRRRR!~

A rumbling growl could be heard coming from a small distance away from where the five elders were. Everyone looked at it and were stunned to see a large beast that towered over them all.

"The savior beast?!" The five elders recognized.

'Was it this big?' one of the elders who had seen Little Shrubby before could see the difference.

Little Shrubby bared his fangs at the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Members without fear. Even though he was still at the Dao Shell realm, he didn't fear them at all. As long as he had his master by his side, he could go against anyone in the world.

"Wait, he's not alone." Supreme elder Hua Langya could sense the cold aura coming from the back of Little Shrubby.

It was clearly contrasting against Little Shrubby's own, and as long as one paid a little attention, they would be able to see it too.

Daoist Hua was surprised at this sudden change of situation and was a bit afraid too. Not because that help had clearly arrived, but because he could sense something wrong with the help itself.

~shua~

From the back of Little Shrubby, floated up none other than Lin Mu. His expression was still like the frozen seas and gazed upon the three Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Members that were left here.

"Little Shrubby, kill." Lin Mu spoke in a low voice.

~ROAR!!!~

Little Shrubby instantly understood and flew away to the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Member he had sent flying earlier.

"W-who are you?" The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Members left here were confused and anxious.

They could clearly tell from the spirit qi fluctuations that were coming from Lin Mu that he was merely at the Dao Shell realm, lower than them. And yet, they felt terrified of him. It was a deep feeling that came from within them. Even their Dao Embryos that were currently fused together were warning them.

The beast that had interrupted their attack too was similar and they felt a fearsome oppression from it, despite the fact that it too was at the Dao Shell realm. Still, their instincts told them that the beast could still kill them if not harm them.

But despite all that, the greatest fear they felt from was not from the fierce and dangerous looking beast. But rather from the young man in front of them. His still face was handsome, but it felt like the handsomeness of a devil that had come to reap lives.

"What does a brat like you want? Go away if you don't want to die too!" The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Members warned.

As much as they wanted to attack him directly, they couldn't help but want to say this and see if he actually went away. Even though Lin Mu's cultivation base was lower, they didn't want to say that out directly either.

Firstly, they couldn't tell who Lin Mu was at all. Anyone this young being at the Dao Shell realm was something that should be known across the entire Great Zhou Continent. Before they had set out on their mission, or even before that, they had been informed of all the well known experts of the continent.

This was so that they would know what they were to face. Especially considering they were attacking other top sects. They were bound to face such people. Additionally, Gu Yao wanted to get these young experts under his control too. He would much rather have them under him than get them killed.

And if they resisted too much, there was always the option of sacrificing them and their cultivation base in exchange for a new Reborn.

They would get the power of those young experts one way or the other. Resisting was futile against the Gu Legion and the Northern Tribes.

And yet... they were about to learn the meaning of that feeling today.

Lin Mu didn't answer these men at all, and merely took a glance around.

~SHUA~

His hair flew around as a powerful spirit qi wave spread from him. The very air shook as winds blew.. Lin Mu's spirit sense spread around, revealing all the secrets they were hiding.

Chapter 1049 - Killing Blows

The eyes of all the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Members went wide as they felt a spirit sense stronger than ever before. It broke through their defenses as if they were air and quickly entered their bodies. Feeling as if they had been violated, the anger appeared on the faces of all the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Members here.

"I see now... no wonder you all reached the Dao Treading realm..." Lin Mu spoke in a low voice.

"Y-you!!!!" The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Members were furious at his act and were feeling humiliate.

But before they could do anything, Lin Mu acted first.

Extending his right hand towards the Dao Embryos, he lightly uttered a word.

"Meld..."

As soon as that word was said, the fused Dao Embryos let out a cry

~skweee~

The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Members wanted to retreat at that moment and withdraw their Dao Embryo's, feeling the greatest danger of their lives. It was many times greater than now when they were facing Daoist Hua after his Noon Of Life was activated.

Then, under the stunned eyes of all, the Dao Embryo was split apart.

"HOW!?" The five elders let out a surprised shout.

Even when the Noon Moon Paling's strongest attack had hit the Dao Embryo, it had only caused damage momentarily and it had healed. But now the entire Dao Embryo had been split apart.

Lin Mu didn't stop at that either, and gestured with his fingers in a sideways motion.

~SKEWEEEE~

The Dao Embryo let out more cries as it was bisected once again. Now it was split apart into four segments that continued to wiggle and writhe.

~SKWEEE~

The four segments were now increased to eight as Lin Mu moved his hand once more.

~SKWEEE~

He did it again, and now there were sixteen segments. Lin Mu didn't stop doing it and the Dao Embryo kept on getting split into smaller and smaller fragments.

The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Members were helpless and couldn't even react in time. To them, while it all looked long, merely two seconds had passed. Lin Mu's hand had in fact moved at great speed and it was merely the fear that they were feeling which had heightened their senses temporarily.

The adrenaline running through their veins slowed down time for them, but their bodies couldn't react at the same speed.

Once the Dao Embryo was reduced to over sixty segments, Lin Mu disappeared from where he was standing and appeared right next to where the Dao Embryos were.

"WHAT ARE Y—" The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Members tried to stop Lin Mu, but it was too late.

A heart wrenching pain assaulted all of them as their Dao Embryo disappeared into thin air.

~cough~

~cough~

~Cough~

The three Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Members suddenly coughed out copious amounts of blood. Their noses, ears and eyes started to bleed as well and their aura started to weaken.

"You... what... what... what did you do?" one of the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Members asked with difficulty.

They could tell what had happened, but it was impossible for them to believe it. Their links with the Dao Embryos had been broken abruptly. This was different than when they let out their Dao Embryos from their Dao Shells. They were still linked to them at a deeper level and even if they went further, the Dao Embryos would continue to stay linked to them.

But now they were broke apart entirely. Even when the Dao Embryos were split apart multiple times, they had not been destroyed entirely and there was still their link with them.

Unfortunately for them, Lin Mu didn't deem them worthy enough to answer. He simply turned to face them and a golden glow suddenly appeared on his body.

~SWOOSH~

He stepped onto the ground and lunged forward.

~BOOM~

A crater two meters deep formed in the ground from that single step as spiderweb like cracks spread from it. Lin Mu appeared in front of the armless Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Member and slapped out his hand.

~Splat~

His hand struck the head of the armless Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Member and instantly exploded it. The man couldn't even realize when it happened and was too slow to react.

"What in the..." The five elders were stunned at this scene.

The Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Members they were trying so hard to kill was eliminated with a single attack. Not to mention this was Dao Treading realm experts they were talking about. Even if they were weakened, their bodies were still strong enough to resist several attacks, and yet it all seemed to be different.

~shua~

A faint flow appeared on the chest of the now dead Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Member as its Nascent soul tried to escape.

"Where do you think you are going?" Lin Mu quickly caught the Nascent soul in his hand.

The face of the Nascent soul was that of absolute horror. It tried to struggle, but in Lin Mu's grip it was useless.

Lin Mu stared at the Nascent soul and saw how muddied it looked as well.

"Useless to even be eaten..." Lin Mu scoffed and crushed the Nascent soul in his hand.

~Poof~

The nascent soul disappeared as if it never existed and Lin Mu gazed the remaining two Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Members. They looked at him and found him standing next to them in the next moment.

~shua~

Lin Mu's hand moved again, but this time the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Members actually managed to dodge. It was a close dodge, but they still did it.

Lin Mu tilted his neck towards them and disappeared again, reappearing above them.

"DAMMIT!" They cursed and tried to move again.

One of the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Member managed to slip by, but one was still caught.

Lin Mu clenched the man's neck in his hand and lifted him up like a chick. Gazing into the man's eyes, he squeezed it until both the head and body were separated.

~thud~thud~

Chapter 1050 - Ferocious And Cruel

Lin Mu's ferocity was not something the elders had expected to see today. So far, they had seen him being amicable and even a bit dominating, but today's display was entirely different.

To them, it was as if this was an entirely different person.

'No... perhaps this is him. Or at least... the one that is truly determined.' Daoist Hua couldn't help but think.

~thud~ thud~

The head and body of the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Member fell on the ground, separated by Lin Mu squeezing his neck till there was nothing left. Blood and flesh was left on Lin Mu's hand, but the Armor of the Mortal Strengthening Scripture made it so that it never stained his robes or his skin.

But just as the body fell to the ground, Lin Mu stomped on its chest.

~SPLAT~

The chest instantly caved in and the Nascent soul that was about to wiggle out was exterminated along with it.

"N-no... No! Stay back! STAY BACK!!" The final remaining Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Member was now filled with absolute terror.

Gone was his arrogance and feelings of power after reaching the Dao Treading realm. Right now he felt like a small rabbit encountering a massive wolf. The wolf stared into his eyes, striking fear right into his soul.

He could even feel something in his ears.

'What is that...?' The man felt voices in his ear.

The voices were faint, but cold. An eerie aura surrounded him and made him shudder.

~whoosh~

He was taken out of his stupor by the wind that was hitting his face. His eyes snapped wide open as he spotted a golden fist heading his way.

"W-wai—" Before he could fully dodge though, his arm was hit.

~KACHA~

The bones in his arm were instantly shattered and a sickening sound was heard. The man wanted to cry out, but the air was knocked out of his lungs in that moment.

~SPURT~

Another golden fist hit his abdomen, crushing his organs and shattering the ribs in the process. Blood and minced organs burst out of his mouth and nose while a soul shaking pain filled his brain.

It overwhelmed him enough that he couldn't even register the pain. His brain couldn't process all the input at once and got overloaded. Unfortunately for him, this was just the start.

Lin Mu spun around with his leg stretched. The leg struck the leg of the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Member and split it in half. Keeping the momentum, Lin Mu spun again, and hit the other leg before the man even collapsed.

~KACHA~

~SPLAT~

With both the legs removed, the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Member fell to the ground helplessly as blood and guts kept on coming out of his mouth. His eyes watered and turned red, but at the same time there was a dullness to them, as if he was no longer there.

Lin Mu gazed at the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Member who was collapsed on the ground, lying on his front as if it was an ant. Lifting his left, Lin Mu planted it right on the hip of the man, shattering his pelvis bit by bit.

If this was done by any normal person, it would seem like the motions of a massage, but with Lin Mu's weight, he was shattering the bones.

"GLA.... GLA...." No longer having any lungs or a diaphragm to speak, only the sound of entrails spilling out from his mouth could be heard.

Lin Mu's face was still as he eventually extruded all the innards of the man using his foot.

"T-this... Alliance leader Lin Mu... stop, that's enough." Supreme elder Hua Langya couldn't watch it anymore.

All the elders had faced bloody and fierce fights before, but what Lin Mu was doing was on a completely different level.

But it seemed like Lin Mu had not heard the man at all and continued doing what he before. By now, the body of the Dao Treading realm Gu Legion Member had been flattened, and it looked like animals that had been road killed and ran over by hundreds of vehicles.

~gulp~

All the elders swallowed their saliva and felt a fear rising from the bottom of their guts. They didn't feel like moving at all, and it was as if they had been frozen in place.

Patriarch Hua thought furrowed his brows and approached Lin Mu. He extended his hand and placed his hand on Lin Mu's shoulder.

"This is enough. He's dead." Patriarch Hua spoke in a calm tone.

Lin Mu moved his neck to look at the old man and stunned the old man.

In that moment, Daoist Hua saw something in Lin Mu's eyes. It was as if they had unending depths to them, like the very abyss was hiding behind them. The illusory figures of unknown beings appeared in them, having horns, sharp teeth and strangely shaped bodies that let out eerie laughs.

"Jiejiejiejiejie..... Jiejiejiejiejiejie....jiejiejiejiejie" Hearing the laughter, Daoist Hua felt his blood turn cold.

Even the increased aura and power from the Noon of Life seemed to be affected and was suppressed.

At this moment, the ring on Lin Mu's right middle finger hummed lightly.

Inside the space of the ring, another scene was happening. Above the Ethereal Altar, a few pitch black runes appeared. These looked like they were made from claws scratching on a surface and were very fierce.

There was a deadly feeling in those runes that made whoever look at it feel uncomfortable. It was like having a knife hovering over you whenever you slept. The runes hovered over the altar for a few seconds before moving around the area.

They went to the barrier that surrounded the altar and tried to leave it, but were unable to. Returning to the altar, they started shrinking and turned into a needle before shooting straight up into the sky and disappearing.

The Altar hummed a few times, alerting Xukong and rousing him from his trance.

He felt anxious all of a sudden and checked upon Lin Mu.