

## Walker 1061

### Chapter 1061 Metal Devastator!

"HURRY! HURRY! WE NEED TO HELP THE PATRIARCH!" The elders shouted frantically.

They were trying to activate the Ocean End Slaughter Formation array. It was the strongest array they had in their sect, and it needed the support of thousands of experts to activate. Even the elders alone could not activate it and needed the disciples to join in.

The advantage of this was that they didn't need any extra resources to activate the array, and it would activate as soon as everyone was in position. Unfortunately for them, Lin Mu was faster than them.

~POP~

Lin Mu clenched his fist and cocked it back.

Spirit Qi and vital essence swirled within his fist, turning into a spiral. But during this more spirit Qi joined in, this time it was yellow colored metal spirit Qi!

Replacing the normal spirit Qi, it filled up and spun with the red vital essence. The two continued to spin until they touched and merged together!

The yellow color of the metal spirit Qi mixed with the red vital essence and turned into a new color.

~SHUA~

Lin Mu's golden fist shone in a new light. It was as if a sun was being born!

Like the orange rays of light during a sunrise, Lin Mu's fist glowed in bright orange light.

"Boulder Collapsing Fist: Third Form- Metal Devastator!" Lin Mu chanted.

An orange beam shot out of Lin Mu's fist, soaring through the air. It was bright and made it hard for everyone to look at it. Just the pressure exuding from it was enough to destabilize the runes of the formation array that were about to be formed.

The orange beam traveled at a great speed. One couldn't even tell when it had already traveled a hundred meters far.

Ma Yun who had been knocked away by Lin Mu's previous attack, was barely coming to control his body, when he felt danger.

"NO!" Sensing it with his spirit sense, Ma Yun tried to run.

~SPLAT~

But he was too late...

"AAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!"

~GRIND~

~SLASH~

The orange beam pierced through the patriarch's back, grinding his skin, flesh, bones and organs into a paste. The energy from the orange beam invaded his body rapidly and swam through his meridians.

The spirit Qi within his meridian was like poor villagers whose village was caught in the middle of a flood. It was overwhelmed and drowned out.

The meridians were slashed apart by the energy, turning into mere dregs.

"PATRIARCH!!!!!"

"NO!!!!!"

"HEAVENS!"

Several elders and disciples cried out. The weaker disciples bursting out crying as they saw the gruesome scene.

The patriarch's chest was directly pierced through the orange beam and a large hole was left in it. The orange beam traveled far and struck the ocean in the distance, exploding and creating a spout of water that shot almost a kilometer in height.

Red color could be seen in the water along with small bits of flesh and organs in it. The beasts in the ocean that had unfortunately been in the strike zone had been reduced to mincemeat, the water tainted with their blood!

~HONG~

Just as Lin Mu was about to attack the Patriarch again, he was blown away.

~BOOM~

A huge tide hit him and swept him away.

"QUICK! GRAB THE PATRIARCH!" The elders ordered as they controlled the formation array.

The Ocean End Slaughter array had already been completed!

Two elders rushed at their greatest speed and grabbed the patriarch before bringing him into their safe area. There were elders surrounding them and thousands of disciples surrounding the elders.

This was the safest place the patriarch could be.

Ma Yun's bloodied eyes could barely see but he could still here.

Even with Lin Mu's attack, he had still survived. He was after all, a Dao Treading realm expert who had lived long and had a high cultivation base. Perhaps if he had gone all out from the start, releasing his Dao Shell and using his Dao Embryo, Lin Mu might not have been able to overwhelm him like this.

"Healing pills! Healing pills! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE TAKE OUT THE HEALING PILLS!" The leading elder ordered.

He was controlling the array and couldn't move from his position. Seeing that the others were watching the patriarch in a frozen manner, he had to shout out at them.

"AH YES!" one of the elders took out several pill bottles and poured out as many pills as would fit in the patriarch's mouth.

The patriarch's mouth bulged like a squirrel stuffing its cheeks with nuts. The elder then took out a gourd. When its cap was opened, rich fragrance of wine could be smelled. He then poured the wine into the patriarch's bulging mouth, helping him melt the pills and making it easier to swallow.

~BOOM~ BOOM~ BOOM~

Meanwhile, the other elders used the Ocean End Slaughter Array to use large waves to keep on pushing Lin Mu back.

"How's the patriarch!?" The leading elder questioned.

"He... he's stabilizing. But the wound is not healing." The others informed.

Hearing this, the leading elder furrowed his brows. He was the supreme elder of the West Ocean sect and was at the Shell Expansion stage of the Dao Shell realm. He didn't know why the pills were not taking any effect, despite the fact that they were the best healing pills one could find.

~COUGH~ COUGH~

"Patriarch!" The elders exclaimed in shock.

Ma Yun coughed and looked around. His vision returned slightly.

"You will be fine patriarch, just focus on recovering. We'll hold the intruder back." The elders said.

"Y-you... You... you all... don't understand..." The patriarch tried hard to speak.

"Don't exert yourself, patriarch," they advised.

"N-no... run..." Ma Yun spoke.

"What?" the elders were confused.

~huh~

Taking a deep breath, Ma Yun gathered whatever energy was left in him and mustered his will.

"Run... away... leave this place..." He said.

"No patriarch, we can't leave you here. We have to stop the intruder!" they said.

"No... I... this is not stopping... I won't live..." Ma Yun said.

"Pat—" The elders wanted to say something but were interrupted.

~SHUA~

The patriarch's body suddenly glowed in an orange light!

## **Chapter 1062 An Unexpected Explosion**

The elders holding Patriarch Ma Yun were caught off guard and didn't know what was happening when his body started to glow in an orange light. But soon their screams could be heard as the energy started burning them.

"ARRGGHHHH!!!"

"NOOO!!!!"

Tens of screams were heard as the energy damaged the elders directly. They didn't have their guard up with their patriarch and it had directly affected their bodies.

"HOW!?" The Supreme elder standing some distance away saw the situation and was left stunned.

He could sense the strong energy fluctuation, but was helpless to do anything.

~KABOOM~

In the next second, the energy seemed to have reached a peak and exploded!

~RUMBLE~

The shock wave spread at a speed faster than sound, knocking away and killing all those that stood in its way. The supreme elder was one of the few that had his guard up and barely managed to defend himself.

But even then, he was sent flying.

The Ocean End Slaughter formation array stopped almost immediately with its controllers being dead or knocked out. The disciples were the most unfortunate, having been killed without even knowing what happened.

The tides that were pushing Lin Mu back faded away without the formation array, giving him the chance to retreat quickly. He had already sensed that something was wrong with the patriarch when the orange light started to come off his body.

Lin Mu's spirit sense was stronger than anyone in here, which was also why he detected it quickly. That was also why he had chosen to get swept away by the tides, even though he had multiple methods to dodge it.

Sensing the anomaly in the patriarch's body, Lin Mu knew he had to be at a safe distance, but at the same time he didn't want to retreat outright as it might give the others some idea about a trap.

Thus, he let the formation array push him, while also putting distance between everything.

"The explosion was unexpected... I thought it would just kill the patriarch." Lin Mu muttered, seeing the chaotic cloud of spirit Qi that damaged everything.

There were traces of metal spirit Qi in it, but the majority was just attribute less spirit Qi. Though Lin Mu also sensed the Patriarch's aura in it, which made him think that this was all the spirit Qi from his body.

Lin Mu soared into the sky and observed as the damage continued to spread. The explosion seemed to have triggered some kind of a chain reaction and all formations that were in its path were destabilized before exploding as well.

And with this place being a sect, there were plenty of formations everywhere, from normal durability formations that protected the buildings and paths, to spirit Qi gathering formation arrays.

The effect continued for about a minute, after which all the spirit Qi was exhausted. Only a scene of devastation and death was left behind after that.

"This... was not exactly what I intended..." Lin Mu muttered as he saw the dead bodies, most of which had been damaged beyond recognition.

Lin Mu's spirit sense scanned for survivors and could only find a few. But even those were on the brink of death and could die at any moment.

Only when he extended his spirit sense farther did he find survivors. These were the disciples, who were located away from the expulsion radius. They were mostly outer court disciples and servants who weren't really qualified to join the ocean end formation array.

Most of them were only at the early or mid stage of the Qi refining realm with the servants not even cultivators.

They were left with expressions of dread and fear as they witnessed the devastation of their sect.

Lin Mu wordlessly flew towards them and gazed at them from the sky, his face still.

The disciples on the ground saw Lin Mu and were filled with terror.

"FIEND!"

"MONSTER!"

"DEVIL! HE'S A DEVIL!"

"RUN!!! RUN!!! HE'S COME TO KILL US ALL!"

Cries of desperation were heard as the disciples broke out of their stupor and started to run. Some stumbled and fell to the ground, injuring themselves but stood out without a care and continued to run.

~Sigh~

Seeing this scene, Lin Mu didn't know how to feel and could only let out a sigh.

"Little Shrubby," Lin Mu called out.

~SHUA~

A red blur appeared next to him at that moment, and Lin Mu looked at him.

Little Shrubby was the same as always, and his thoughts were calm too.

"Was what I did fine, Little Shrubby?" Lin Mu asked.

"If master did it, then it must be fine." Little Shrubby replied.

~Sigh~

'I don't know if it was though...' Lin Mu thought before getting onto his back.

"Let's go... we need to get stronger." Lin Mu said in a low voice.

"Okay!" Little Shrubby said, and started running.

In a few seconds, he was but a mere blur and disappeared on the horizon.

Lin Mu didn't know that his actions today would send the entire great Zhou empire into a tizzy.

Never had there been a time when a top sect had been wiped out in a single day. Even during the past, when great wars still raged, sects were destroyed, but not in a single day. It would take weeks or months for the same result.

And yet... it had happened today.

The survivors of the West Ocean sect soon spread the news, and it spread like wildfire. Everyone from the south of the continent to the very northern tips knew about it. And when other powers sent their people to confirm the news, they were left shocked and scared.

After all, this was the work of a single man.

And if a single man like that could eradicate an entire sect like that, what's to say that he wouldn't do the same to their own sect or kingdom?

The identity of the man was unknown until the portraits were made. The face of the man was unknown to most, other than the Long Cloud alliance.

After all, the man behind the slaughter was their leader.

### **Chapter 1063 Shocking News And Aftereffects Of The Slaughter**

In the Long Cloud sect, a solemn atmosphere was present.

"Are we sure this is all accurate?" Patriarch Mingliang asked.

"There is no doubt anymore... I send my own personal disciple to inquire about it. We also used several techniques to test the survivors of the West ocean Sect and checked their memories.

Everything is true... it really was Lin Mu." Patriarch You Yi stated.

"I can understand stopping the sects part of the Zither Wind Alliance, but this... is on an entirely different level." Patriarch Shandian said.

All the elders sitting in the hall were having strained expressions. It had been a week since the West Ocean Sect massacre and the entire Great Zhou Continent had been shaken.

The imperial court had been alarmed and had called for the top sects to catch the culprit. The top three sects had condemned the act and had already deemed the culprit behind the massacre the greatest foe.

This ended up putting the Long Cloud alliance and Lin Mu's alliance in a tough position.

The Zither Wind alliance had already cried out foul and had blamed the Long Cloud alliance behind the massacre. Though that opinion was greatly weakened due to the fact that a great offense had been mounted against the alliance.

The Noon Grass sect also declared that the Zither Wind alliance was behind their attempted massacre and that allayed the problem for a bit, forcing the Zither Wind alliance to distance themselves from the Gu Legion on the outside.

Tensions were high and there was no telling what would happen next.

"How's the condition of Patriarch Hua?" Patriarch You Yi asked Hua Langya, who was also in attendance.

"He's still recovering from the battle, but he should be fine in a few days. He was also affected by the news of what Alliance Leader Lin Mu did and has been silent since then." Hua Langya replied.

The brows of Patriarch You Yi furrowed as he thought to himself.

"Has there been any success at contracting Lin Mu?" He asked the others.

"I've been trying and others have been trying non-stop, but he doesn't seem to be contactable at all. His jade slip is simply not detectable." The one who spoke was elder Liqiang.

"Could he not be in here anymore?" One of the elders asked. "Perhaps he's in the Kong Plane?"

"If he was anywhere in our reachable distance, we would have already found him. But if he is in the uncharted lands of the Kong Plane, then we are out of luck. Our disciples have been exploring for a while and have encountered more Dao Shell realm beasts.

I would have sent elders, but we are currently dealing with the aftermath." Elder Liqiang replied.

"Hmm... The Black Dune Sect will send our elders to assist you. If he really is in the Kong plane, then we need to find him. The Dao Shell realm beasts will be suppressed if they attack us." Patriarch Shandian stated.

"Will that be fine, Patriarch? With our current situation, we need people here." One of the high elders of the Black Dune sect asked.

"I'm not asking to send all of them. Only a couple of them will be enough." Patriarch Shandian stated.

"Very well, the Long Cloud sect shall send two elders as well." Patriarch You Yi added.

"And so will the Light Harmony sect." Patriarch Mingliang joined in too.

"This will make things easier then, thank you patriarchs." Hua Langya and elder Liqiang said.

"And what about Jing Luo? Has he come out of his ancestral land yet?" Patriarch You Yi questioned.

"No patriarch, but we've already sent a few elders to the supposed locations. They will inform them the moment they come out." One of the high elders of the Long cloud sect replied.

"Good... Jing Luo is the closest person to Lin Mu. He might be the only person who might have a way of finding and contacting him. And if Senior Jing Wei can help us, then it might become even easier." Patriarch You Yi stated.

The discussion of the alliance members continued for a while as they tried to come up for solutions.

Lin Mu had created a situation none of them had expected or ever thought of.

But while the alliance was troubled, the same could be said for the Gu Legion.

In the headquarters of the Gu legion, Gu Yao was having a meeting with his subordinates too.

"How is this possible? We lost everything in the West ocean sect. All the resources were wiped out and so were our people there." One of the subordinates said.

"First the loss in the Noon Grass sect and now this..." another member said.

Gu Yao had his eyes closed, his thoughts unknown.

A few minutes passed like this while his subordinates talked and gave various reports. The supply lines of the Gu Legion had been temporarily broken, with the West Ocean sect getting wiped out.

They were getting around a third of their resources from them and thus it was a rather large blow to them.

"Enough!" Gu Yao suddenly spoke.

"Lord..." The members all went silent.

"This... person... is dangerous for us... we need to speed up our efforts." Gu Yao spoke.

"What do you suggest, my lord? We are already stretched thin after using the disciples of the Ripple mist sect. Around half of them have already been exhausted." One of the subordinates spoke.

"Doesn't matter. Use all of them if you have to. I want ten more Dao Treading realm experts!" Gu Yao ordered.

"A-as you command, my lord." The subordinates replied.

Gu Yao's words were the law and none of them were going to reject him or go against him. They were truly devoted to the man and would stop at nothing to fulfill his commands.

Gu Yao left the meeting after that and reappeared in his personal hall.

He looked opened a secret stairway and went down, appearing in a new area. In here, a large formation array was working, as pale red energy gathered in a large pool.

"Soon... I just need more time..." he muttered.

### **Chapter 1064 Shell Completion Stage Of The Dao Shell Realm**

In an empty and desolate cave, a certain man and beast rested. Their auras were strong... stronger than most beings in this world and were getting even more strong by the minute.



Lying around the two beings were tons of spirit stones. Or more like, there were literal hills of spirit stones around them. They ranged from top grade spirit stones all the way to low grade ones.

The air around them was filled with dense spirit Qi, that had reached a concentration high enough that the air seemed humid. The spirit Qi shimmered lightly under the glow of the beast's fur.

The beast's fur had sparks and small red flames burning on it every so often. Even the human was not free from this, having tinges of golden glow on his skin shining every now and then.

No matter who saw it, the scene was rather stunning and not what most would expect.

These two were of course, none other than Lin Mu and Little Shrubby.

It had now been over two weeks since the massacre at the West ocean sect had happened. The people had gotten aware about it, and even the commoners were informed about it at this point.

Among the commoners, there was now a new fear. Or one could say a new bogeyman.

This was of course, none other than Lin Mu.

They would tell their children, if they did not behave, the devil of Zhou would come and take them away.

That was the title that had been given to the killer of West ocean sect.

The Devil of Zhou!

It was hard to tell if it was fine or not, but since the sects did not deny it, the commoners went with it. Additionally, since the portraits of the Devil of Zhou were present all over the empire, the people became even more scared.

Most people had bogeyman as faceless beings that they could use for inciting fear.

But the Devil of Zhou wasn't like that... he was an actual person who could do all the things that they imagined about.

The people who were already this scared about the Devil of Zhou didn't know that the person was only getting stronger.

~SHUA~

Waves of spirit Qi rose from the spirit stones lying around Lin Mu as they rushed into the Dao Shell that was floating above him. With the high concentrator of spirit Qi in the area, the Dao Shell was looking far more visible than before.

~HONG~

The Dao Shell resonated with Lin Mu's call and started to rapidly absorb the spirit Qi in the air.

'I need to get stronger... and the first step to that is to increase my cultivation base. The ones who died under my hand are my sin to bear, but they will also be the whetstone to my cultivation base.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

For the past week, he had been at a loss as to what he had done and if it was worth it.

In the end, Lin Mu came to a conclusion on his own that it was all inevitable. At the rate at which things were going, the West Ocean sect would have contributed to a far worse situation than they had been at that point.

It was only a matter of time and the death rates would spike once again.

Lin Mu's intervention might have delayed or entirely prevent thousand if not hundreds of thousands of deaths with it.

With this burden on his mind, Lin Mu continued his goal of getting stronger. And the one joining him in this endeavor was none other than Little Shrubby. Both of them were in the Dao Shell realm and needed spirit Qi to progress.

Lin Mu's Dao shell was already at almost 70% completion, while Little Shrubby's was at about 30% completion. Either of those were rather good, but Lin Mu was not satisfied by it.

'The foes I face are strong and more will appear the longer I wait. If I cannot even match their speed, what use will I be off. The Xiaofan making me the ordained will be a joke then.' Lin Mu thought to himself as he chanted the severing heart sutra.

His heart stilled as his rate of absorbing spirit Qi increased.

~shua~

The Dao Shells did their work and started to absorb as much spirit Qi as they could.

Lin Mu's spirit sense went to the ring and came upon the large stores of alchemical pills he had gotten. He had not classified them yet, but with an initial look, he could tell what pills did what.

"Doesn't matter if I use the technique of the Lost immortal. All will be the same in the end!" Lin Mu said to himself as he took out tens of bottles of alchemical pills.

~CRACK~

With a light shake of his hand, the bottles all cracked and Lin Mu poured their contents into his mouth without a care.

If anyone else were to see this scene, they could declare Lin Mu to be insane. After all, consumption of alchemical pills in this manner was no less than that. If any average person did this, getting Qi deviation was the least of their concerns.

More than that, they would have to pray that they didn't just explode into meat shreds instead.

But for Lin Mu, nothing mattered.

Within his stomach, the fine nets of runes worked and spun, letting the Lost immortal's nameless technique work at its best.

Vital energy was absorbed and converted into vital essence while Spirit Qi was rapidly assimilated into his body as well.

~shua~

Above his body, the multi-sided complex looking Dao Shell was also growing.

Its illusory shape started to turn corporal as it absorbed more and more spirit Qi. With each passing hour, it became more and more solid. But the more it absorbed, the slower the process got.

Eventually, another week passed by...

~HONG~

One certain day, the Dao Shell floating above Lin Mu let out a loud sound.

His Dao Shell had finally reached the Shell completion stage!

### **Chapter 1065 Coming To Terms**

"Master?" Little Shrubby woke up from the sound.

He was deep in cultivation and wouldn't be disturbed easily, but the sound coming from Lin Mu was simply too loud.

Looking at Lin Mu, he saw the Dao Shell shining. It let out a bright light and seemed to be swirling in joy.

~HONG~

Another humming sound was let off by the Dao Shell, prompting Lin Mu to open his eyes.

"Come," Lin Mu ordered.

~shua~

The Dao Shell slowly descended and came to float in front of Lin Mu, giving him the chance to fully observe it. Even if Lin Mu had spent a long time designing his Dao Shell, this was still his first time seeing it in the real world.

He wanted to be familiar hit it, for it was his Dao Shell and he would have to depend on its powers. Additionally, the way he had chosen his Dao shell's shape was also different, thus he needed to ensure that everything was according to his standards.

"So this is my Dao Shell..." Lin Mu muttered.

The Dao Shell had eight sides to the main body, along with an additional part that protruded from one side. It vaguely looked like the shape an acorn would have. It was flatter on both sides and there was a circular part in its center, having a wider space in it.

The Dao shell was a pale white in color and looked rather tough, being two meters long and a little less than two meters wide.

Lin Mu observed the Dao Shell for a few minutes, getting familiar with it. He could sense the connection between the Dao Shell and his body. It was on an intrinsic level and could be easily controlled with a thought.

'Just like senior Xukong said... a proper Dao Shell will be like the limb of a cultivator, able to move with just a thought,' Lin Mu thought to himself.

"Did you breakthrough master?" Little Shrubby finally asked, seeing that Lin Mu seemed to have returned to normal.

Lin Mu turned to look at his companion and noticed the Dao shell floating above him. It was shaped like a fan and had five sectors extending from its central sector. It vaguely looked like the shape of a hand.

"I did." Lin Mu nodded his head. "And it seems like you are close to it as well." He added.

"Mmhm... I just need some more time." Little Shrubby replied.

Looking at Little Shrubby's Dao Shell, Lin Mu could tell that he was at about the 70% mark.

'About the same as me when we started,' Lin Mu thought to himself.

The speed of progress for both Lin Mu and Little Shrubby was very fast. Especially considering the fact that it had merely taken them two weeks to reach this point. This was something others spend decades or centuries to accomplish.

And yet, Lin Mu and Little Shrubby had done it in less than that. Though the cost for it was great too... no sane sect would expend all their resources in pushing two experts to the Shell Completion stage of the Dao Shell realm.

Though the resources used by Lin Mu and Little Shrubby were a little too much.

For any other expert, the amount of resources taken from the West ocean sect were enough to make them reach all the way to the Dao Treading realm. Forget them. Even if someone picked some random child from the streets and poured the resources in them, they too would reach the Dao Treading realm all the way from being a common mortal.

And even then, there would be plenty of resources left. Perhaps the resources would be enough to nurture multiple Dao Treading realm experts.

The standards of cultivation for Lin Mu and Little Shrubby were simply too high. One could attribute this to the cost of talent. One could cultivate fast without bottlenecks with great talent, but one would also have to consume an appropriate amount of resources.

"Hmm... there's still a quarter of the resources left." Lin Mu muttered after taking a look around.

Most of the things that were left were either spirit stones or raw spirit herbs and fruits. Of course, this was only when considering consumable resources. Other items like spirit ores, metals, crystal, and such weren't considered by Lin Mu.

They were still lying around in his ring and weren't taken out.

Lin Mu thought to himself, what he should do next.

'According to the goal Senior Xukong set for me, I'm supposed to directly skip the Shell expansion stage of the Dao Shell realm and reach the Dao treading realm. But if I want to do that I need to give birth to a

Dao Embryo... I would do that no doubt, but how am I supposed to do that?' Lin Mu wondered to himself.

And just as Lin Mu was thinking to himself, he heard a voice in his head.

"Oh? You are already at the Shell completion stage?" Xukong said in a surprised voice.

He had been deep in cultivation since the strange black runes the Altar was making, and had not spent much attention to Lin Mu. And since Lin Mu didn't contact him for anything either, he left him to his devices.

Xukong was letting Lin Mu make his own decision, considering that there wasn't as much danger to him as there was in the past. Plus Lin Mu had learned enough about the cultivation world that he didn't need constant assistance.

"I... did senior." Lin Mu replied.

"Hmmm... that's good. But wasn't this too fast?" Xukong said.

"Well... some things happened, and it just ended up like this." Lin Mu replied.

Hearing this, Xukong quickly took a look through the memories and saw all that Lin Mu had done.

'Now this is not what I expected...' Xukong thought to himself.

Seeing that Xukong had not said anything for a while, Lin Mu was a bit anxious.

"Are you upset with me senior?" Lin Mu questioned, knowing that Xukong knew everything now.

"Upset? Why would I be upset? Ahahaha! For a measly thing like eradicating a small mortal world sect?" Xukong laughed.

### **Chapter 1066 Karma And Decisions**

Hearing Senior Xukong's words, Lin Mu was a bit surprised.

Xukong easily guessed Lin Mu's train of thoughts and decided to give him some more to think about.

"You destroyed the West Ocean sect after a long consideration didn't you? You already had the capability to do so a long time ago, but held out for another solution. That was already giving them many chances." Xukong spoke.

"There will be many situations that you will face in your life that will be many times more complex than this, many times more deadly than this and will also test your will greatly. They might make you pay an even bigger cost, and put a great strain on you.

Regardless of what happens, you are not to falter. Remember, those who are strong do not necessarily survive till the end, but those that survive in the end are all strong!

So do whatever you can to live and achieve your goals." Xukong said as his sagely voice echoed in Lin Mu's ears.

Lin Mu's mind shook slightly as he understood the other side of senior Xukong's words. Xukong had not said it openly and had left for Lin Mu to comprehend it on his own. The positive words had a negative back to it.

It was up to Lin Mu, whether he would accept it or not.

"Besides... the effects of karma on you would be negligible." Xukong added.

"Karma? Like the sins?" Lin Mu questioned.

"You could say that. But it is not that simple. The heavens are controlled by the Heavenly Dao and the karma dictates how it will behave. Even merits can beget sins and merit can rise from sin.

For example, sometimes the sacrifice of a few can save the lives of many. Or letting a small tyrant reign might prevent tens of other tyrants from appearing and causing more harm to people.

In your case, you have an even better excuse. You are the world's ordained and all those that go against the world's will would be ignored by the karmic will of the world." Xukong answered.

"What use is this karma for us senior?" Lin Mu questioned feeling even more interested.

"Hmm... you could say it affects your fate and destiny." Xukong answered.

"Like doing good deeds will get us good fortune and vice-a-versa?" Lin Mu asked.

"That is the general logic used by most, but that is not accurate. The true workings of karma are infinitely more complex, and even I cannot deduce it.

The karma of a small worm can affect the karma of a great heaven's chosen that might be reigning over hundreds of worlds. Though for most cultivators, the workings of karma don't come into play until quite late.

By the time you reach that point where you can sense it, you would have already lived quite a long time and accumulated a lot of karma.

That is the reason why many experts all over the universe dictate that one should prevent sowing any karma. That is why many sects prefer their disciples severing their ties with the secular world.

It is not that they are afraid that they wouldn't be able to reach a high cultivation realm, but rather if they have too much karma, they wouldn't even be eligible for it.

And since karma is infinitely complex, most experts agree that having no karma is the best." Xukong explained in detail.

This certainly gave Lin Mu a lot to think about, and will for the years to come. But for now, he had a different question.

"And what do you agree on senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

Hearing this, Xukong couldn't help but chuckle.

'The kid got it, huh... good.' Xukong thought to himself.

"For me... I'd say do whatever you want. Whether it be good karma or bad karma or no karma, if you keep on worrying about that, you will forget your present and lose out on many opportunities and relationships that you might benefit from later." Xukong stated.

Hearing this, Lin Mu couldn't help but smile.

"Thank you, senior... now I know what to do." Lin Mu replied.

"Mm... cultivate as you will, do as you want. I'll be here if you need a second opinion, Hahaha!" Xukong said before going back to his own cultivation.

Xukong knew that lightening the weight on Lin Mu's mind was necessary today. He didn't want Lin Mu to fall into the same cycle that orthodox and unorthodox paths followed. Going with one of them was the norm that many ended up taking without even knowing.

It was a trap that was cleverly woven, that many entered with full knowledge of.

Avoiding it was difficult and taxing, but the final results of it were far too great to ignore.

Xukong had already experienced it first and was stuck in it too, and had barely managed to get out of it.

'Perhaps if it were not for the old monster, I'd be like that too... is this what you wanted me to do?' Xukong thought to himself.

Lin Mu looked at Little Shrubby and the remaining resources and made up his mind.

"We are going to continue cultivating." Lin Mu said.

"We will?" Little Shrubby asked.

"Yes... we need to at least get you to the Shell completion stage of the Dao Shell realm too." Lin Mu replied.

"Okay~" Little Shrubby said in agreement.

Lin Mu too, made his decision.

'I'll cultivate till I'm out of resources... doesn't matter if I was going to silk the shell expansion stage, I still need to form a Dao Embryo and that'll take time. Until I reach that level of comprehension, may as well expand my Dao Shell.' Lin Mu analyzed.

~shua~

He waved his hand and more spirit stones appeared around them. The concentration of spirit Qi rose even more and the man and beast started absorbing it at a great speed!

Lin Mu's Dao Shell was now inside his Dantian and was slowly growing. The rate of growth was slow, and barely and change could be seen even after a week, but Little Shrubby was nearing a breakthrough!

### **Chapter 1067 Strengthening Bloodlines And Little Shrubby's Breakthrough**

"He's close..." Lin Mu muttered as he observed Little Shrubby.

The Dao Shell was now almost completely corporeal and merely a fraction of a percent was left.

About two weeks had passed since Lin Mu's breakthrough and he had basically exhausted all the resources he had taken from the West Ocean Sect that were consumable. He had even stopped cultivating himself so that Little Shrubby could get the last push needed.

Minutes felt as long as hours to Lin Mu, with the last step taking longer than before.

'Is there a problem?' Lin Mu wondered.

He was just about to use his spirit sense to check, when it happened.

~SHUA~

Suddenly, the air heated up and massive spirit Qi waves started to emanate from Little Shrubby.

Compared to Lin Mu's own breakthrough, Little Shrubby's was far more impactful.

~HONG~

The Dao Shell floating above Little Shrubby hummed and started to change color. From its pale white color, it turned red. Flames soon appeared on it as fire attribute spirit Qi was infused into it as well!

Little Shrubby himself was still deep in a trance, his eyes closed.

~ROAR~

But regardless of that a loud roar was heard coming from deep within his body.

~HUALA~

The effect started to spread as a phenomenon manifested. The spirit Qi outside the mountain Lin Mu and Little Shrubby were cultivating started to stir. Even the clouds started to move and the sky darkened.

The beasts living in the vicinity were terrified and ran to get as far from it as possible.

The mountain was deep in the forest, thus there were no humans nearby, or they would have been greatly shocked too.

Little Shrubby's body glowed in a red light as seven illusory figures appeared out of it, The illusory figures expanded and turned into the seven bloodline beasts that Little Shrubby had.

"The bloodlines appeared again?" Lin Mu was surprised.

"You should take this chance to strengthen the bloodlines once more." Xukong felt the changes and woke up too.

Hearing this, Lin Mu nodded his head. In fact, the seven illusory bloodlines figures were already staring at him with a hint of desire in their eyes.

"Look, even they haven't forgotten that." Xukong added.

~huu~



Lin Mu took a deep breath as he chanted the Nurturing heart sutra. The spirit Qi within his Dantian started to quickly transform into streaks of Beast Qi. Lin Mu decided to go all out this time and strengthen all of them.

'Since little Shrubby's cultivation base increased, the bloodlines should have gotten more stable than before. Strengthening them shouldn't be a problem.' Lin Mu thought as he let out two wisps of Beast Qi.

More Beast Qi was already being made in his Dantian while he shot the two streaks towards Little Shrubby.

~shua~

One of the Beast Qi streaks went to the Flash Fire Liger bloodline and the other to the Scorch Claw Tiger Bloodline. These two were the most dominant ones that Little Shrubby had and gave him his strength and speed.

The other bloodline figures watched in envy as the first two got to enjoy the Beast Qi.

"I got more coming up, you all just maintain your appearance." Lin Mu spoke.

The bloodline figures had a certain level of intelligence and understood his words; suddenly increasing their presence.

~shua~ Shua~

Lin Mu sent two more streaks of beast Qi towards the Bloodlines, with one going to the Thunderbolt Cheetah and one to the Fume Wood Panther.

The Thunderbolt Cheetah also contributed to Little Shrubby's speed, but didn't give him the elemental affinity yet. While the Fume Wood Panther had only recently shown an effect on Little Shrubby, giving him the Vitality Reversal skill.

While the Skill didn't have any direct effect on his strength, it did give Little Shrubby momentary boosts in speed and also allowed him to change his size. Which in turn, was effective in hiding his appearance.

Though the bloodline also gave Little Shrubby the ability to absorb wood elemental spirit Qi which he hadn't gotten from the Thunderbolt Cheetah Bloodline.

But what Lin Mu wanted Little Shrubby to obtain from The Fume Wood Panther Bloodline was its healing and regeneration innate abilities. Spirit plants and plant type beasts all had great regeneration abilities.

It made them resilient and hard to kill. For them most injuries were just temporary and could be healed, given enough time and nutrients. It was a top level ability for any cultivator to have.

Additionally, Lin Mu had also been told by Xukong that the more Little Shrubby's speed increases, the greater strain his body will endure. For now, it was not an issue, but the long term use can cause some problems.

One of the ways to overcome this naturally would be to have a healing or regeneration ability.

After these four bloodlines, the ones that were left were the Brood Mane Lion, The Hundred Mirror Leopard and the Midnight Lynx. These bloodlines had not shown any effect at all, thus he wanted to see if they could do so in the future.

He gave them one streak of beast Qi each, before making more of it. This time though, he only gave it to the first four bloodlines and had to stop at that point.

"Seems like this is the limit for his current cultivation base." Lin Mu muttered.

The illusory bloodline figures had gotten unstable and were about to turn to a mote of light.

The bloodline figures seemed unwilling, but in the end couldn't resist.

~shua~

The Illusory figures merged back into Little Shrubby's body and the spirit Qi waves started to calm down.

It had been less than ten minutes, and yet it looked like a long time had passed, though the work that Lin Mu had done in these ten minutes was already worth a lot. Directly strengthening bloodline likes this was not easy to do at all.

The benefit Little Shrubby had gotten from a direct beast Qi infusion like this was a 100 times better than what he would get by absorbing it normally!

### **Chapter 1068 The Change In Ripple Mist Sect**

~Grrr~

Little Shrubby stirred from his trance and woke up. His eyes gleamed in a fiery light, while his vibrant red fur shimmered with small sparks of fire. His aura started to leak out as the spirit Qi waves reappeared.

~ROAR!!!!~

Taking a deep breath, Little Shrubby let out a thunderous roar.

The roar spread for over five hundred kilometers, alarming all beasts and humans that were living in that radius.

"Heavens! What is that sound?" A group of cultivators was hunting near the edge of a forest.

"That sounded like a beast's cry! RUN!" One of them quickly turned tail and ran to the outskirts.

"FUCK! That is no normal beast cry! Run for your lives!"

Without even checking if there really was a beast coming towards them, the humans ran away. A similar scene could be seen in other areas too where there were humans. The beasts were already running away from the mountain that the roar had come from.

A few Nascent soul realm beasts that lived in the forest directly fainted from the bloodline aura that had risen from Little Shrubby. The weaker beasts couldn't sense it so they were ironically safe.

A village that was located twenty kilometers from the forest too heard the roar and its people decided to directly abandon it. Women, children, and old people were evacuated while the able bodied men and warriors stayed begin.

And when herds of beasts started running out from the forest, the humans truly realized that something had happened in the forest. It was unknown what kind of a beast could cause this, but they knew it was best to stay as far away from the forest as possible.

Lin Mu and Little Shrubby were unaware that anything of this sort had happened. With just a cry, thousands of humans were displaced and tens of thousands of beasts fled.

But even if they did know, it wasn't something they would care for now. There were far greater things they needed to worry about.

"Congratulations on your breakthrough, Little Shrubby." Lin Mu couldn't help but praise.

"Thank you, master. I'll become stronger and more strong! Then we'll eat for a hundred years and no one will stop us!" Little Shrubby stated his little dream.

~chuckle~

"Sure," Lin Mu couldn't help but chuckle upon hearing Little Shrubby's words.

"What do we do now, master?" Little Shrubby asked.

Lin Mu furrowed his brows as the next few steps appeared in his mind.

"Since you want to keep on getting stronger... we will do exactly that." Lin Mu replied.

"Okay~" Little Shrubby agreed straightaway.

"Come... we have more places to go." Lin Mu said, and the two left the mountain.

~BOOM~

In a few seconds, a loud explosion was heard as Little Shrubby sprinted away with Lin Mu on his back.

Days later, several cultivators would visit this place to check the anomaly but would find nothing other than a cave that had the aura of a strong Dao Shell realm beast.

Lin Mu and Little Shrubby ran toward the north east direction now. Their destination was a place they had been to once before. Lin Mu had even fought there before.

It was none other than the Ripple Mist Sect!

~SHUA~

A sea of clouds flowed high up in the sky, as two dots that were almost invisible to the naked eyes appeared among the boundless clouds.

Lin Mu gazed upon the sect that seemed a bit different to him. His brows furrowed and he looked around.

"Strange... why are there so few disciples here?" Lin Mu wondered.

The last time he was here, the number of disciples was easily over a hundred thousand. And that was only the ones that he could see out in the open. There might be more in the thousands of buildings that dotted the sect.

Lin Mu's spirit sense probed the barrier of the sect and easily passed through it. The barrier which had mistaken it was the same as before and let his spirit sense pass through.

'They never rectified it, huh...' Lin Mu reckoned. "At least it makes things easier for us."

Lin Mu's spirit sense brazenly spread across the sect, the secrets of all disciples laid bare. He listened to their conversations and learned what had been happening in the sect. And it didn't make him feel calm.

"The disciples have been sent to mandatory seclusion and haven't left for two years?" Lin Mu learned.

Apparently, the Ripple Mist sect had ordered a majority of their disciples to enter seclusion, with the claim that they were weak and tough times were ahead of them. The disciples were disinclined, of course, but couldn't defy the orders of the elders.

The ones that were sent into seclusion first were the disciples that were lower in the rankings. But over the years, more and more were sent, and now even some of the core disciples were sent to the seclusion.

"ALL INNER COURT DISCIPLES ARE TO REPORT TO THE SECLUSION PAVILION WITHIN ONE HOUR!"

Suddenly an announcement was heard echoing throughout the sect.

Hearing this, the faces of several inner court disciples fell and they didn't know what to do now. While most were fine with the seclusion, but as more and more of the disciples were sent into seclusion, many were starting to get suspicious.

It was inevitable, and a few disciples had even tried to leave the sect.

Of course, they were caught and then imprisoned for breaking the sect's laws. After getting caught, they were never heard of again.

"Heavens! I don't want to enter seclusion, I barely entered the late stage of the Qi refining realm last year." A disciple complained.

"How are the elders even thinking? What use will be seclusion without any resources?"

"Yeah! We were not allowed to go on any missions for the past year and didn't get any merit points. How are we to continue cultivating?"

More disciples started complaining amongst themselves.

"SILENCE!" But soon a loud voice was heard.

~SHUA~

An elder appeared from the main peak of the sect and stared upon the disciples with anger in his eyes.

"DO YOU ALL DARE TO QUESTION THE ORDERS OF THE SECT?" He roared.

"N-no elder!" They all hurriedly replied.

"THEN GET YOUR ASSES TO THE SECLUSION HALL!" The elder ordered.

The disciples all scampered off to the seclusion hall until there was almost no one left.

Lin Mu who observed it all, had a bad feeling about it.

"Master." It was now that Little Shrubby spoke.

"Yes? What is it?" Lin Mu asked.

"I can smell something from that large building there... it's familiar..." Little Shrubby replied.

"Familiar? Familiar to what?" Lin Mu questioned.

"The humans we fought at the Noon Grass sect. Their bodies had a scent similar to this." Little Shrubby answered.

Hearing this, the thoughts in Lin Mu's mind linked, and he knew what Little Shrubby was talking about.

A frown appeared on his face as he made up his mind.

'I need to see it for myself... if it really is like that then...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

"I'll go down and see. I'll call for you if I need you." Lin Mu stated.

"Okay," Little Shrubby replied. "I'll watch from here."

"Oh and if you sense any others with a scent like that... don't let them leave." Lin Mu added. "Or just kill them if they attack you."

Little Shrubby nodded his head, and Lin Mu descended to the ground. He easily passed through the barrier and went into the ground. With him gone, Little Shrubby continued his watch.

But after a while, he spotted something in the corner of his eye.

~sniff~

Smelling something, his eyes glowed and he went to the eastern direction, following behind a man that had just left the Ripple Mist Sect.

While Little Shrubby did his own little investigation, Lin Mu continued his search. With his spirit sense spread around, he quickly got the understanding of the area. But in his search, he found something surprising too.

"Oh? There's actually someone that managed to hide from the elders and is defying their orders?" Lin Mu's spirit sense stumbled upon a certain disciple that was hiding in the ground too.

Lin Mu got a bit closer and found the disciple to be a bit familiar.

"Hang on... isn't this guy... from that time?" Lin Mu recalled giving this disciples a mid grade spirit stone as a reward for letting them leave the barrier.

'He made a few isolating formations and slapped as many talismans he could on top of them huh...' Lin Mu figured out the method the disciples had used.

A few seconds later, Lin Mu decided to pay the guy a little visit. Seeing his actions of defying the sect, Lin Mu reckoned there was a great chance the man might give up more information that Lin Mu couldn't learn by just using his spirit sense.

In a small area underground, Zhu Zhu had been hiding for about half a year now.

"Fuck! Fuck! The elders are really getting close now. How do I leave this place?" Zhu Zhu said to himself.

Seeing the situation, he had decided to hide away, even if the elders got suspicious. He would then bide his time and find an opportunity to escape. But even after all this time, he had not gotten it.

And now there was basically no disciple left in the division, all the inner court disciples were called.

He had heard the announcement too, as the formations only hid his presence but couldn't isolate sound.

"If you answer my questions, I'll allow you to escape the sect." Suddenly, a new voice was heard.

### **Chapter 1069 Meeting A Certain Foolish Disciple Again**

Zhu Zhu almost fell when he heard the voice behind him.

"DON'T KILL ME ELDERS!!!!" Zhu Zhu cried out on instinct.

Lin Mu observed the startled man, who seemed to be hiding his head in his knees. He simply stood there and waited for the man to come to his senses. Thankfully, it didn't take long and Zhu Zhu felt something was wrong when he didn't get the wind knocked out of him in five seconds.

Lifting the fingers off his head, he tilted it and sneaked a look at the person standing in front of him. At first, he only saw the legs and they were draped in robes that were not recognizable to him.

'That doesn't seem like any elder's robes...' Zhu Zhu thought.

Finally, building up a little courage, he wholly lifted his head and looked at the young handsome man standing there. There were spirit Qi fluctuation coming from him that were no weaker than most elders.

But poor Zhu Zhu didn't know that this was only because Lin Mu was holding them in. He didn't want to alert the sect and make things more tiresome for himself. At least not when there was a chance that there was something sinister happening here.

"W-who... Who are you?" Zhu Zhu questioned.

"That does not matter... what matters is what I can offer you." Lin Mu stated plainly.

Tens of thoughts ran through Zhu Zhu's mind as he tried to wrap it around this situation. He couldn't understand how someone could appear here in the room he had made in the ground.

Especially since it was closed off entirely and even he would need to dig his way out. There were only some small openings that would bring in air and some sound from the outside.

'Wait... there are no openings...' Zhu Zhu looked around at the small room, seeing no place broken.

Lin Mu easily guessed what the man was thinking, but didn't mind it.

"Now then... I understand that you want to leave the Ripple Mist sect?" Lin Mu asked, pulling the man out of his thoughts.

"Y-yes... I want to leave... the sect elders have gone crazy." Zhu Zhu replied.

"Crazy you say? Can you tell me more?" Lin Mu asked.

"They... they force us to enter seclusion but don't give any resources that they are supposed to. Then there is the fact that all those that entered it have never been heard from again." Zhu Zhu replied.

"From what I know, seclusion is supposed to be like that. No contact, so that one could fully focus on cultivation." Lin Mu stated.

"Yes, that would be fine. But... there were many discrepancies in this... the biggest one that made us suspicious being... the death of a few that was hidden from us." Zhu Zhu replied.

"Deaths? What kind of deaths?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Well... the deaths of many were hidden from us. It wasn't as if deaths during seclusion were common either, as only those that were secluding themselves at the end of their lifespan would die like that. Or rarely those that made mistakes during cultivation and died from Qi deviation.

These were... unexplained deaths.

I and my fellow disciples heard of them for a while but when one of our companion died and we asked the elders, we were reprimanded about questioning them and challenging the rules of the sect." Zhu Zhu answered.

"How were you all so sure of your companion's death?" Lin Mu asked.

"The companion of ours that died... he had a betrothed... someone he had promised to become Dao companions with. He had left a life wick with her. She broke down when she saw the life wick burning out all of a sudden one day.

The shocking thing was, it was merely two days after he entered seclusion. And there was very little chance of him dying in there as he was only in the mid stage of the Qi refining realm, not in any risk stage of breakthrough. He wasn't at the end of his lifespan either and didn't have any other issues." Zhu Zhu replied.

Lin Mu knew what life wicks were. They were similar to the soul light pearls and other such treasure that were used to tell if the owner had died or not. Many people used these to keep track of their family or loved ones.

Though life wicks were considered to be one of the more lower quality ones and wouldn't work if the person who had lit them went too far from it. But even in that case, they wouldn't go out, but just keep on burning for a hundred years before dying out.

But seeing as the man's life wick went out when both were within the sect itself, it didn't make sense that it had stopped working naturally.

Lin Mu found it all to be rather suspicious indeed.

"And you say they deny that anyone died?" Lin Mu asked.

"Y-yes... they sternly deny it all and tell us that we should not question them at all. They all changed... the elders might have been strict in the past, but they turned utterly crazy three years ago after that incident when our ten of our elders died." Zhu Zhu replied.

Hearing that, Lin Mu knew that incident was none other than him leaving the sect after killing some elders in the process.

"The elders were greatly enraged, and the patriarch gave them some ordered before entering seclusion himself. Since then, radical changes happened in the sect and the number of resources we got reduced as well." Zhu Zhu stated.

'The Gu Legion... no doubt they are re-routing the resources from here.' Lin Mu easily guessed.

"Do you know where the sect keeps resources? And also, do you know where the sect's spirit stone mines are?" Lin Mu brazenly questioned.

"W-why do you want to know that?" Zhu Zhu asked, having a bad feeling.

"To take down this sect, of course." Lin Mu causally spoke.

Hearing that, Zhu Zhu's eyes went wide and he couldn't help but feel like there was a lump stuck in his throat.

### **Chapter 1070 Sending Off Zhu Zhu**

Zhu Zhu was terrified of Lin Mu and ended up spilling all that he knew. He passed Lin Mu everything he had about the sect, including the access tokens, maps, the sect booklets and more.

Most of it was useless, but Lin Mu took it none the less.

"Can... can we leave now... the more we wait the greater chances of the elders finding us." Zhu Zhu said. "I did what you asked." He added, wondering if Lin Mu was intending to renege on his words.

"Alright." Lin Mu said, satisfied with the information he had obtained.

While there were limits to the information that Zhu Zhu had, it was still enough to paint a rather vivid picture in Lin Mu's mind. This information, combined with the rest that he had about the Gu Legion, was enough to give a good idea to Lin Mu.

Lin Mu even asked Zhu Zhu if they knew what was asking out in the world, and he was entirely clueless. They didn't even know that the Noon Grass sect had been attacked, and neither did they know anything about the Gu Legion.

This made Lin Mu confirm his doubts about how the sects were truly being controlled. But there was also variation in the information given, since the West Ocean Sect seemed to be in a much better condition than the Ripple Mist sect.

"How are we going to leave, though? If we go out, the elders will find us." Zhu Zhu asked doubtfully.

"That won't matter. They are going to die either way." Lin Mu said as he placed his hand on the wall.



~THUD~

With a slight push, the entire wall collapsed before the roof started to fall as well. Zhu Zhu covered his head but was still hit with rocks and stones. His face was covered in dirt now and his robes were colored brown.

Lin Mu though, was entirely fine and immaculate as before, with the armor of the Mortal Strengthening Scripture preventing the dirt and stones from touching him.

~cough~ cough~

Zhu Zhu coughed out the dust he had inhaled and looked at the sunlight that was warming his body. It had been over six months since he had last felt the sunlight, after all.

"Come," Lin Mu said as he took out a spirit sword.

Zhu Zhu hesitated a bit before jumping onto the spirit sword.

~shua~

Lin Mu rose up into the sky with the spirit sword following behind him.

~Flicker~

The formation array of the sect suddenly flickered as a few runes appeared around Zhu Zhu.

"OH NO! THEY DISCOVERED US!" Zhu Zhu cried out.

Lin Mu lightly glanced at the runes and flicked his finger.

~KACHA~

The runes broke apart like glass and faded away.

Then without a word, he accelerated while the spirit sword continued behind him.

"Whoa!" Zhu Zhu almost fell off from the spirit sword.

'Just how far is this going?' Zhu Zhu could only see the blurry surroundings and the barrier of the sect that was rapidly approaching.

Seeing the barrier, his eyes went wide.

"Wait! Wait! We'll crash into the barrier!" Zhu Zhu cried out.

But before he could continue his words, he saw Lin Mu punch out.

~BOOM~

A ten meter hole was punched out in the barrier and Zhu Zhu was left with his jaw wide open.

It was understandable since the barrier was a sect protecting barrier that could take blows from a Dao Treading realm cultivator, after all.

They easily went past the barrier and were finally out of the sect.

Zhu Zhu looked back and felt like this was all a dream.

"Are we really out?" He couldn't believe his eyes.

"Yeah, we're out." Lin Mu replied.

And just as Lin Mu said that, a loud voice was heard.

"WHO DARES!!!!!"

~EEEK!~

"It's the high elder!" Zhu Zhu cried out.

Lin Mu's spirit sense quickly found the high elder approaching from the main peak of the sect. He turned to Zhu Zhu and curled his middle finger.

"Hold on tight, I'll send you further away." Lin Mu spoke.

"Huh? You're not running?" Zhu Zhu found it absurd.

"Nope." Lin Mu said and flicked the pommel of the spirit sword with his middle finger.

~CLANG~

A crisp sound was heard before the spirit sword was sent flying at a great speed.

Zhu Zhu didn't even get to cry out as his mouth was filled with wind. He could only hold on for his dear life while the spirit sword continued to fly without Lin Mu being there. He had already given the weapon a command and it should be able to manage without him.

With Zhu Zhu gone, Lin Mu turned back to face the elder that was approaching.

"Who dares violate the barrier of the Ripple Mist Sect and intrude in its territory!?" The High elder questioned in a fierce voice as Dao Shell realm spirit Qi fluctuations rose from him.

Looking at the scene, he made the assumption that someone was trying to intrude into the sect by breaking the barrier. After all, he would never think that someone was actually trying to escape the sect and that Lin Mu had broken it from the inside.

However, Lin Mu didn't care for the man. Without even speaking a word, he blinked towards the elder and punched out.

"Wha—" Before the elder could react, he was struck with a golden fist!

~BOOM~

The Dao Shell realm elder was nothing in front of Lin Mu's attack as his head directly burst apart like a watermelon.

~thud~

His headless corpse fell to the ground as a Nascent soul wiggled out of it.

Seeing the muddy color of the Nascent soul, Lin Mu wrinkled his brows and stomped.

~SPLAT~

The Nascent soul was snuffed out of existence, while the body of the high elder turned to mush as well.

~Wooo~

Lin Mu soared into the air and brazenly headed to one of the peaks.

"Time to start my work..." Lin Mu muttered as his spirit sense scanned the hidden vault.