

## Walker 1091

### Chapter 1091 The Unnerved Patriarch

The Sky Precepts sect had only recently gotten the information about the condition of the Ripple mist sect and it was utterly absurd for them.

"How can we have not known this at all? Where the hell is the patriarch!?" The patriarch of the Sky precepts sect almost yelled.

"I cannot say, patriarch. Though if I may assume, it is likely that we have been fooled for a while now. I cannot help but think that the Long Cloud alliance might have been correct that the Gu Legion is behind this." High elder Han said in response.

The patriarch of the Sky Precepts sect went silent upon hearing this and no word was heard from him for a minute.

"Fine... I want a detailed investigation of it all!" The Patriarch shouted. "Not just the Ripple mist sect, I also want the information about the person who has attacked them!"

"B-but patriarch... there is currently no information about that person. We have already cross-referenced all that we could but there are not links at all." One of the elders in charge of the intelligence gathering spoke.

The patriarch of the Sky Precepts sect did not take it calmly, though. "DIVINE IT IF YOU HAVE TO! I WANT IT BY THE NEXT WEEK!" He roared, shaking the entire peak.

The shock waves spread throughout the Sky Precepts sect and startled all the disciples that were present there at that time.

~gulp~

All the elders were wary after hearing the patriarch and knew that the man was truly infuriated at this point.

'The patriarch... reached Dao Treading realm?' A few of the elders though sensed something else.

The one thing that was known about the Sky Precepts sect patriarch was that he was perhaps the only patriarch of the top ten sects that were at the Dao Shell realm.

And this was when he was literally the patriarch of the top 1 sect.

But this was due to the fact that he practiced a certain cultivation technique that restricted his cultivation base. This was what all had thought for the longest time.

'Did the patriarch really break through? Why were we not informed?' the elders who sensed the power of the patriarch all wondered.

"We shall do as you asked, patriarch." Head elder Han quickly spoke.

"The first elder has already been informed and he shall personally divine the whereabouts of the person behind it all." Another elder hurriedly added.

"Hmm... I shall wait for the response." The Patriarch said before closing his eyes.

Everyone in the hall left other than a couple of people that were personally trusted by the patriarch.

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Days upon days passed and nearly half a month had gone by since Lin Mu had eaten the meat of the Glacial Shell Snail Queen.

Today, he finally opened his eyes as his body reached a new level.

~shua~

Waves of frost emanated from his body as the entire outpost hidden in the mountain was covered with frost. Only the area taken over by little shrubby was safe as the heat coming from his body and spirit Qi kept it safe.

~HUU~

Lin Mu took a deep breath as he continued to cultivate. In the past fourteen days, he had let his body assimilate the energy from the Glacial Shell Snail queen and let his kidneys be refined passively.

Over the two weeks, his refinement level had finally reached the 99% mark.

But upon reaching this, Lin Mu felt like he had been obstructed.

'The final push will need all my effort...' Lin Mu thought to himself as he forced his stomach to release all the remaining energy of the Glacial Shell Snail Queen meat.

~HONG~

Lin Mu's body felt cold when the copious amount of energy was released by his stomach .

"Ugh!" Lin Mu grunted. 'I can never get used to it.' He internally thought as he let his body continue it work.

The stream of energy spread through his meridians and reached his kidneys equally, pushing them further on the path of refinement.

Lin Mu gritted his teeth as the pain only increased more. He had been feeling pain since the last week and knew that it was something he needed to overcome with sheer willpower.

Without a proper cultivation technique to further the body cultivation, this was Lin Mu's best bet and he was willing to do whatever it took.

Time seemed to have slowed down as the cold feeling permeated Lin Mu's meridians and froze the bottom half of his body.

He once again looked like an ice immortal, with his eye brows, eye lashes and hair having turned white due to the ice.

Lin Mu couldn't tell if the time was even passing after a certain point, when suddenly...

~KACHA~

He was woken up from his trance as a sharp and sonorous sound echoed in his ears.

~HONG!!!!~

An echoing sound was heard coming from Lin Mu's body and even woke up Little Shrubby in the process.

The beast was a bit astonished, but continued to watch it all from the side, knowing that Lin Mu was at a critical time of breakthrough. Little Shrubby was also in a similar position and would breakthrough soon as well.

He was already in the Shell expansion stage and it was only matter of time before the Dao Embryo would condense for him. The same could be said for Lin Mu too as he was only cultivating in the Shell expansion stage as he needed time to form his own Dao Embryo and discover it.

Minute melted to seconds before finally, Lin Mu woke up.

"GAH!" Lin Mu let out another grunt as two stabbing sounds were also heard.

~SLICK~ CLANG~

Lin Mu's body recoiled back before the chilling receded back into it.

~huu~

Lin Mu took a deep breath as he felt the newfound power surging through his entire body.

Looking at his hand, Lin Mu lightly clenched it, compressing the air and creating a jet that scratched the wall in the distance!

### **Chapter 1092 Four Treasured Organs!**

Lin Mu's body emitted cold waves of air as spirit Qi thrummed within it.

He gazed at his body that was overflowing with power, power that he had never felt before. The power stirred his spirit Qi and only urged it to circulate faster and faster.

Peering into his body, Lin Mu checked the condition of his kidneys. There he found them to be full of vitality, with all its cells having been refined to an entirely new level.

'So this is the Five Treasures Realm Kidney...!' Lin Mu tried to sense what kind of improvement his kidney's brought for him.

Each Treasured organ would bring some level of improvement in addition to just the increase in body cultivation. When Lin Mu refined his spleen, it had improved the quality of his blood and when he refined his heart, it had improved the circulation of his blood, which in turn improved his overall body.

Then the refinement of his lungs had improved his breathing capacity, along with stamina.

This only made Lin Mu wonder what the kidneys could bring forth. While it might seem like these improvements were not that much, they were very important. After all, in a battle, even a difference of a fraction of a percent could decide the victory or loss.

Thus, any improvement for Lin Mu was good.

He continued to observe his kidneys and found the chill coming from it disappear. After about five minutes, it was entirely gone. After all, it was only the residual effects from the flesh of the Glacial Shell Snail Queen.

Lin Mu actually didn't have an affinity with the water element, thus he wouldn't be able to control it. He only had the affinity for the Earth and the metal element. For the fire element, he was only able to use it because he had the Embrace Of Hong Lin, which allowed him to use fire.

But in the case of the water element, Lin Mu neither had the natural affinity nor a technique to compensate for it.

As Lin Mu continued to observe his kidneys, he finally felt a new feeling from his kidneys.

"Oh?" Lin Mu was intrigued.

He could see that his kidneys were actually affecting his blood. Not only would they remove the natural toxins from it, but they were also improving the rate at which new blood was produced.

And due to this new improvement, Lin Mu could tell that the density of vital essence in his blood would only increase more.

Vital essence was the very life force of a being and the more one had, the better their bodies would be. Lin Mu had gained a lot of it from the flesh of the Glacial Shell Snail queen and it was now being reflected in his body.

~shua~

The more blood that passed through his kidneys, the richer the vital essence was setting in it. And not just this, the aura of Lin Mu started to increase as well!

This was not the usual aura that one would have just due to the virtue of their life, but rather the aura one could develop when their vitality had reached a boundless level.

~HONG~

Finally, all of Lin Mu's blood had completed one cycle of circulation through his kidneys. This resulted in a chain reaction and his body let off a wave of pure vitality.

~Crack~

Just this alone was enough to send cracks spreading across the floor of the outpost.

Little Shrubby who had been observing everything since the start, felt his fur standing on its end as a deep feeling of threat rose from Lin Mu.

The beast's ears perked up, and only after the aura settled did he calm down. Even though Little Shrubby knew that there was no threat from Lin Mu to him, it was an instinct that was causing him to react like this.

"Master?" Little Shrubby spoke, seeing that Lin Mu had calmed down.

~huu~

Lin Mu let out a breath before looking at Little Shrubby. "Yes?" he responded.

"Did you breakthrough?" Little Shrubby asked.

The beast could tell when Lin Mu had a breakthrough in his spirit Qi cultivation, but couldn't do the same for his body cultivation.

"Yes. I have... I am now in the fourth stage of the Five Treasures realm!" Lin Mu stated, a hint of joy and excitement in his voice.

"GREAT!!" Little Shrubby exclaimed.

Lin Mu rubbed Little Shrubby's head and looked at the Dao Shell above that was still absorbing spirit Qi.

Little Shrubby's Dao Shell had reached a rather large size too and was two meters wide in size. Lin Mu looked at his own Dao Shell within his Dantian and estimated that it was only a little bigger than Little Shrubby right now.

Though Lin Mu also knew that there was a difference in his Dao Shell.

'Little Shrubby might reach the Dao Treading realm in Qi cultivation before me most likely.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

"That is expected. After all, in your case, you need to discover your Dao Embryo and form it on your own. But for Little Shrubby, his bloodline will automatically form the Dao Embryo at a certain point." Xukong spoke after a while.

"Mmm... though I have equivalent strength in the Body cultivation, so it shouldn't matter. I can now contend against most experts." Lin Mu replied and wondered what his capabilities were now.

After all, even if he had broken through, it would take him practice to adapt to his new strength.

Lin Mu lightly pressed his hand on the ground and formed an imprint on it.

"Certainly not the same as before." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

Another thing he sensed was his control over his weight was better than before.

He felt like he was 'lighter' than before.

This was actually not a decrease in his weight, but rather the improvement in his strength allowed him to feel as if the weight was nothing.

Lin Mu concentrated on his body and thought for a minute.

~shua~

Then a few seconds later, his body floated up, but there were no spirit Qi fluctuations coming from him!

**Chapter 1093 Continuing The Breakthrough**

Lin Mu gazed at his body that was naturally floating and knew that he had finally managed to fly with his body cultivation.

"I can do it again." Lin Mu said, a hint of excitement in his voice.

It wasn't that he couldn't fly with his body cultivation before, but rather after he had practiced the True Gold Body Forging Arts and assimilated a lot of gold in his body, his weight had made it difficult to fly just with his body cultivation.

Body Cultivators had this one disadvantage as compared to Qi cultivators and it was well known.

In order to fly, just reaching an equivalent of the Nascent soul realm was not enough for Body Cultivators. They would need to be at a higher cultivation base than that to do the same as Nascent soul realm cultivators and fly.

The mechanism of flying was also different for both paths of cultivation.

Qi cultivators absorbed and expelled spirit Qi at the same time, in order to fly. But the body cultivators didn't do the same.

After all, they used vital essence along with spirit Qi to cultivate. And since they didn't use their meridians the same way as spirit Qi, they couldn't fly normally. Instead, they would have to use their vital essence and create a thrust using their aura to fly.

This was harder than just using spirit Qi and thus they would often need a very strong aura to do this.

And Lin Mu had reached exactly that point.

But it was not that a body cultivator would be slower than a Qi cultivator who could fly. No, they could achieve the same space by simply running around with their legs. Not only that, but they could also leap to great heights and some could directly step on air with their sheer strength to fly!

"Seems like I'll need to get used to this." Lin Mu said as his gaze went to the sect in distance. "And I have the perfect target to practice with too..."

But as much as Lin Mu wanted to go forth and wreak havoc on the Zither Wind Sect with his golden fists, he knew there was still more preparation to do.

He glanced around at the small hills of spirit stones that were lying around and estimated that there was still enough to push his Qi cultivation further.

"Hmm... perhaps I can do more at once." Lin Mu thought to himself.

A few ideas passed through his mind before he glanced at Little Shrubby.

"Alright, I have a new idea, Little Shrubby." Lin Mu suddenly spoke.

"What is it?" Little Shrubby questioned.

"We'll speed up your process of cultivation. You can continue absorbing the spirit Qi, and I'll also give you beast Qi at the same time. It should help you from a Dao Embryo sooner, since it is dependent on your bloodline more." Lin Mu answered.

Little Shrubby had no qualms about it and quickly replied. "Okay~"

With both parties in agreement, Lin Mu quickly got to work.

He directly pulled several slabs of spirit stones under him and gathered more around him.

~huu~

Taking a deep breath, Lin Mu started to draw the spirit Qi from the stones at a rapid pace. The spirit Qi rushed through his meridians and settled in his Dantian, where the Dao Shell sucked a part of it.

While doing this, Lin Mu also chanted the Nurturing heart sutra and transformed a part of the spirit Qi he had into beast Qi.

He continued condensing it until it had turned into a thin string of Beast Qi. But he didn't release it right away, instead letting it float around in his Dantian for now.

'I'll have a stock of it ready before giving it to Little Shrubby. That way, my rate of conversion and depletion will be almost equal.' Lin Mu thought.

And while he was doing this, Little Shrubby also continued to absorb spirit Qi into his Dao shell directly. It was floating above his head and was red in color since the fire elemental spirit Qi had also entered it.

Time continued to pass, and an entire day elapsed.

At a certain moment, Lin Mu opened his eyes and spoke.

"Get ready, Little Shrubby!" Lin Mu said out loud as he raised his hand.

~grrr~

Little Shrubby growled in excitement and watched as a stream of Beast Qi spread out from Lin Mu's hand.

~WHOOSH~

A strong suction force came from Little Shrubby's body and sucked in the beast Qi stream. But it didn't stop there as more and more beast Qi kept on pouring out of Lin Mu's hand.

The spirit Qi from the spirit stones underneath Lin Mu started to fall rapidly and was soon reduced to half.

With this, a new cycle had formed.

Spirit Qi would enter Lin Mu's body, where a part would expand his Dao Shell and the rest would convert to Beast Qi and shoot out of his hand, entering Little Shrubby. The beast would in turn, absorb the beast Qi and enrich his bloodline while also expanding his own Dao Shell with the spirit stones.

The rate of consumption of spirit Qi reached a new level and the spirit stones started depleting at a stunning level. Soon, the spirit stones under Lin Mu had turned to dust, but he quickly added more of them.

The same was done with the spirit stones surrounding him as well. Lin Mu had plenty more spirit stones in storage and was ready to finish them all for the breakthrough!

Such a method of cultivation was indeed very rapid, but the cost was something that would literally bankrupt a sect. After all, the spirit stones were basically obtained from spirit stone mines and vaults of the sect.

This was all that a sect owned and was used to nurture hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of disciples at once.

But instead of that, all the spirit stones and resources were being used by merely two individuals!

### **Chapter 1094 A Spark And Seven Motes Of Light**

Lin Mu had continued using the spirit Qi and producing Beast Qi for a while. He didn't even realized when he had gotten into a state where he was monotonously doing everything and also comprehending at the same time.

Doing so many tasks at once had given him insights into how the spirit Qi worked and flowed while also allowing him to strengthen his Dao Shell. It was a surprising gain but a welcome one certainly.

Little Shrubby was progressing steadily too, and his Dao Shell had expanded by about 10% too. It was now a over two meters wide, which was an excellent size. Most cultivators would barely even reach this size after centuries of cultivation.

But Little Shrubby had reached it in less than a span of three years.

~HONG~

Lin Mu gazed at the Dao Shell of Little Shrubby as a faint humming sound could be heard coming from it all of a sudden.

His gaze was mild, but soon turned intense as the humming sound increased as well.

"You should stop now." Xukong's voice was heard.

"Oh? Why Senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Little Shrubby has reached a peak. Beast Qi will not help him anymore for now and might only distract his body." Xukong said before taking a pause. "Look... he's already in a trance." He added.

Lin Mu observed closely and saw that Little Shrubby's breathing had indeed changed. His eyes were closed, but that was quite normal while cultivating and thus wasn't a good sign of whether one was in a trance or not.

But having one's breathing change was a good sign for most times. While it might not be the most accurate one, it was still better than using eyes.

And since Lin Mu was rather familiar with Little Shrubby, he could tell that he truly was in a trance and one that was different than usual.



Lin Mu thus stopped producing Beast Qi and simply observed Little Shrubby. The beast stayed in the same state for a while, and Lin Mu wondered if nothing was going to happen.

But just as he was about to give up, it happened!

~shua~

A very faint sound was heard coming from Little Shrubby. It was almost like a whisper, like an ember had been lit.

But the energy wave that came from it was massive.

"WHAT!" Lin Mu almost felt like he would be knocked away from it.

"There we go... take this chance to observe it as much as you can. Might help you later." Xukong said with a chuckle before retreating into silence.

Lin Mu did just as suggested and saw as the wave of energy coming from Little Shrubby's Dao Shell settled down.

Instead of the wave, there was now a small light hidden within the Dao Shell. It was very small, and almost impossible to see with a naked eye. Just like a spark from a flint, it barely let out any light.

But just like how a spark could turn into a blaze, it erupted!

~WHOOSH~

Another wave of energy spread from Little Shrubby, but this time the aura of the bloodlines rose with it.

~ROAR!!!!~

A strange roar was also heard, which seemed as if thousands of beasts were roaring at the same time. The roar came from within Little Shrubby and only increased with the bloodline aura.

And when the aura reached its peak, the bloodlines themselves materialized.

Seven motes of light shot out of Little Shrubby's body. Red, orange, brown, green, silver, blue, and black were their colors, with each of them exuding a different sensation.

The Red mote was explosively hot like gunpowder while the orange mote was searing hot like a flaming knife. The brown mote exuded a sense of unity. The green mote exuded endless vitality. The silver exuded a sense of reflection and mystery. The blue exuded shock and gave one goosebumps while black exuded a sense of calmness as well as unease.

Lin Mu didn't know what to make of them other than the fact that he could tell what they were.

'The bloodlines are certainly stronger than before.' Lin Mu thought as the motes started to expand.

~Rumble~

The seven motes of light expanded rapidly and turned into seven beasts that composed Little Shrubby's bloodline.

The bloodline figures all seemed imposing and far more 'alive' than before.

"It's almost as if... they are aware?" Lin Mu muttered in wonder.

His wonder was answered by a look from all the seven bloodline figures as they gazed at him.

At first, the look was sharp, but it soon mellowed down.

~growl~

A unified growl came from all of them, as if acknowledging Lin Mu before they gazed at Little Shrubby's Dao Shell.

~Roar~

But from the seven bloodline figures, only two moved. The bloodline representing the Flash Fire Liger and Scorch Claw Tiger approached the Dao Shell and touched it with their heads.

~HONG!!!!~

The Dao shell started to tremble as faint runes started to form within them.

"Dao script?" Lin Mu recognized.

The runes seemed to be coming from the two bloodline figures' heads and were gathering together. Lin Mu tried to read the runes but found himself to be unable to do it at all.

He could 'read' them but not 'understand' them.

It was a strange sensation, and he was reminded of the first time he had started to learn the Dao script from senior Xukong.

'New runes that stem from the very Dao itself... can't be understood by simply reading and needs comprehending to grasp.' Lin Mu remembered the teachings.

Giving up on reading the runes, he continued to watch as the runes seemingly merged together and formed a red blob. The blob was like water, and ripples formed on it whenever more runes entered it.

Time continued to pass and Lin Mu didn't even realize when it had been an hour.

By this point, the red blob was no longer a blob and had a particular shape instead.

And that shape was none other than that of a hand!

### **Chapter 1095 A Hand**

"He really did end up with a hand..." Lin Mu spoke in surprise.

He had a hunch that Little Shrubby was intending for a claw or hand shaped Dao Embryo and had even made his Dao Shell to be like that. But seeing it really came out like that was surprising to him.

It wasn't always that one's Dao Embryo would come out the same as they had intended it to be. Many Cultivators had experienced this and sometimes it was good for them and sometimes it was as bad as their Dao Shell's might not be the right shape for it.

Still, considered that the bloodlines themselves were guiding the formation of the Dao embryo, it was even more confusing for Lin Mu. After all, these were beast bloodlines, and they were a hand rather than a claw.

Lin Mu continued to watch as the hand gained more details and even started to change a bit.

From its unassuming and vague hand shape, it gained contours and finer lines. The nails also formed on it and then started to grow.

It was here that the hand took a different turn.

"Oh? That is certainly not a human hand..." Lin Mu muttered as he saw the nails growing to over an inch in length.

Not only that, but they were sharp too!

The fingers also turned a lot more rugged and the palm became thicker, as of a hundred years of callouses had formed all at once.

The skin of the palm was orange in color while the back of the hand was red in color instead. Then some unique patterns formed on it, starting from the base of the hand. These patterns were black in color and stared off as a plain black spot.

From this black spot, a thick line extended, which then split off into five smaller lines that went all the way to the nails of the hand. The nails turned black due to this and looked rather ferocious.

"No... that's not all... are those runes?" Lin Mu looked closer and saw that all the patterns and details weren't just plain old features.

Rather each contour, each crease, each ridge on the hand was made out of runes!

The runes were fine and seemed to be swimming constantly, making it hard to tell that they were even there as they blended very well. Even the black pattern on the back of the hand was made out of runes that constantly wiggled and changed.

Lin Mu marveled at the runes and found there to be a different meaning to each rune. This time he felt the meaning of runes rising directly within his mind. As if he intrinsically knew them.

"How...?" Lin Mu was confused.

He focused on all the runes and found himself to be sucked into them.

He could tell that the runes were telling different things. But the most common thing in all of them was 'fire'. Lin Mu could make out the runes that all meant fire.

And as soon as he understood this, he felt his mind shake!

A burning heat rose from his dantian and rushed out into his meridians!

Lin Mu was washed away with this wave and couldn't control his body at all.

"STOP!" Suddenly, a loud voice was heard in his head, rocking him out of his state.

Lin Mu shook his head and took deep breaths.

"W-what was that?!" Lin Mu was alarmed.

"You almost got lost to a Qi deviation." Xukong said, only scaring Lin Mu even more.

"What? H-how did that happen? How's that even possible?" Lin Mu was stunned.

"You tried to comprehend Dao from a Dao Embryo that was not your own. This is a side effect of that." Xukong replied.

"Huh?" Lin Mu only felt more confused upon hearing this.

But then he recalled Senior Xukong's earlier words.

"Wait, didn't you tell me to observe everything I could and learn from it, Senior?" Lin Mu questioned in doubt.

"I know... but I never expected you to be able to comprehend Dao traces from it. I... don't even know how that is possible. At least not automatically, you shouldn't have been able to sense them like this." Xukong answered.

"Is it not something that can be done?" Lin Mu asked further.

"No... not normally. People do try to comprehend Dao Traces from other's Dao Embryo's from time to time. But this is very rare. Senior cultivators would sometimes guide juniors with this.

But that is something that should only be done with great caution, as the compatibility of one's body and talent is greatly different and even unique in many cases.

Thus even if a person has the same type of Dao Embryo as another person, they will still have a fine difference in Dao Traces that can damage others." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu had not thought that there would be such a complication to a factor like this. It was a new thing for him and he knew learning would only make him better at it.

Lin Mu already knew that there were an infinite types of Dao Embryo's in the universe. But there were also some that were more 'common' among them. Many people would end up having the same Dao Embryo as they followed the common path.

For example, a person cultivating a fire elemental cultivation technique might form a Dao Embryo that looked like a simple flame, or perhaps a lamp.

These were very common forms and many might have the same form. Such Dao embryos would become well known and get their own names.

Such Dao Embryo's were called as Named Dao Embryos.

Over time, most Dao Embryos in existence were already discovered and named. Even legendary Dao embryos were well known and had names of their own.

Thus, it was extremely rare for there to be new Dao Embryo's without a name.

This was what made Lin Mu ask his next question.

"Senior, is this Dao Embryo a new one? Or is it something already recorded?"

"No... it is certainly a new and unique one." Xukong answered, just as Lin Mu had expected.

### **Chapter 1096 Three Peak Grade Spirit Stone Mine Source Veins**

Lin Mu had a hunch that it might be a new Dao Embryo, but hearing the confirmation was still rather shocking to him.

"As far as I know, there are many palm and hand type Dao Embryos in the universe. But I've certainly not seen or heard of any that look like this." Xukong explained.

"I see..." Lin Mu replied as he gazed at the Dao Embryo that was still releasing some aura.

He wondered how long it would take for Little Shrubby to wake up from this. Though he reckoned it shouldn't be long as once Little shrubby got acclimatized to the Dao Embryo he would awaken.

"Guess I just have to wait a while more." Lin Mu muttered and decided to do some other things in the mean time.

Peering into his Dantian, Lin Mu could see his own Dao Shell that had reached about two and a half meter size. There was still some spirit stones left, thus Lin Mu decided to continue consuming them for the time being.

Since he didn't need to convert it into Beast Qi anymore, he could simply absorb it into his Dantian and let his Dao Shell take it all in.

~shua~

The spirit Qi from the spirit stones surrounded him and entered his body. The spirit stones started to crumble at a visible rate and in an hour, Lin Mu had finished off the last of the spirit stones.

~huu~

Letting out a breath, Lin Mu checked his storage and saw that he only had his original spirit stones left and something extra.

"The source veins... I still have three of them left..." Lin Mu muttered.

He had not used the source veins of the peak grade spirit stone mines as he reckoned they would come in handy for something else. Though Lin Mu was also prepared to use them if the normal spirit stones were not enough for his and Little Shrubby's breakthrough.

But now that he had achieved what he had set out to do so, he could go forth with the secondary options.

"Time to see if the Garden Of Karma will accept more..." Lin Mu muttered before closing his eyes and sleeping.

His vision darkened for a while and when it returned, Lin Mu found himself back in the Garden of Karma.

"Huh?" But upon appearing there, he saw some new things.

"When did the tree grow again?" Lin Mu said upon seeing the spirit apple tree.

It had almost doubled in size, and several more branches had grown on it. The number of apples on it had also increased, and over half of them were already ripened.

~shua~

At this moment, he felt a fluctuation behind him and saw a grey orb of light appearing. And from that orb came out none other than Senior Xukong.

"Looks like the Garden of Karma is nurturing them further. Your breakthrough also grows the Garden of Karma." Xukong spoke after quickly observing the entire area.

"Mhmm... though it doesn't seem like the total size of the Garden itself has increased." Lin Mu replied.

"That should not be so easy to increase. If it really is a minor dimension of itself, there is a great chance the conditions needed to increase are high. So far, your cultivation base increase has improved it. And now that you broke through in your body cultivation, the quality of the Garden of Karma has improved." Xukong stated.

Lin Mu thought over it and came to the same conclusion.

"So if we follow that logic, then... my body cultivation improves the state of the Garden of Karma, allowing the plants here grow better. And seeing the past, the increase in my Qi cultivation will increase its total size." Lin Mu concluded.

"Indeed. This is what we can confirm for now. Though there might be a lot more we don't know yet." Xukong chimed in.

"At least it is something." Lin Mu muttered and looked around.

The Purple Sickle Amaranth had also grown a bit, but not as much as the Spirit Apple Tree. The Wood Spirit Tulip on the other hand, seemed to be the same size.

'Did it really not grow?' Lin Mu wondered and probed it with his spirit sense.

Soon he got his answer.

"Oh? So it grew its roots rather than its top..." Lin Mu understood.

Walking up to it, Lin Mu didn't see any other changes in it. Though the Purple Sickle Amaranth had increased the amount of wood elemental spirit Qi it was producing. The increase wasn't anything big like double, but Lin Mu could estimate it was at least five percent more than before.

This then made him wonder more about the spirit apple tree. While its size had increased, Lin Mu questioned whether the quality of the spirit apples had increased or not.

"Let's see then, shall we?" Lin Mu muttered and walked up to it.

Plucking one of the apples, he held it in his hand and felt the spirit Qi within. Furrowing his brows, Lin Mu took out another spirit apple that he had plucked a while ago and compared the two.

"Indeed... even the spirit apples have increased in their potency." Lin Mu discovered that the spirit Qi within the two spirit apples was different and the newer spirit apple had at least twenty percent more spirit Qi within it.

While consuming it might not make much of a difference for Lin Mu, it was still a good difference. After all, Lin Mu could still make use of them in other ways.

'If nothing else, I can always sell them. Might need them in the future for that.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Having learned all this, Lin Mu then decided to go do what he had originally come here to do.

"Let's see if the Garden Of Karma will accept more spirit stone mine source veins." He said before taking out the three veins he had in the ring.

~THUD~ THUD~ THUD~

The ground shook lightly as three large chunks of crystal fell onto it.

### **Chapter 1097 Rapid Growth And Change Of Plants**

The three source veins were rather massive and were much bigger than the one that Lin Mu had taken before.

After all, these spirit stone mines had existed for longer and thus had plenty of time to grow. This led to the crystal becoming far denser and richer in spirit Qi. They could thus condense the spirit Qi into spirit stones far better.

"Now they're out... will it absorb them?" Lin Mu questioned.

He watched it for about a minute but nothing happened.

"It's... not doing anything?" Lin Mu was confused.

Xukong who was watching, suggested something, "why don't you try willing it? The Garden of Karma is linked to your soul, so should respond to something like that."

"Of course!" Lin Mu accepted the suggestion and closed his eyes.

'Come on... absorb and assimilate the crystals...!' Lin Mu said in his mind.

~tremble~

And just as he did that, he could feel the ground shake.

~Rumble~

The ground seemed to have turned soft where the source vein crystals were lying and they started to sink into it. As if all this was a swamp, the crystals quickly sank. In less than a minute, the three source vein crystals had entirely disappeared, and the ground had returned to normal as well.

Lin Mu eased his brows upon seeing that the Garden Of karma had responded to his wishes.

~Whoosh~

Then a few moments later, the air within the Garden started to churn.

"It should be starting now." Xukong said as he observed the spirit Qi turning chaotic in the air.

Lin Mu sat down and waited for the changes to be done.

~shua~

About five minutes later, the spirit Qi in the Garden of Karma started to increase. The increase was rather rapid and it was also affecting the other things here.

~rustle~ Rustle~

The three plants in the garden seemed to have come alive and were moving their leaves and branches in joy. They swayed with the wind and absorbed the spirit Qi that was rising within the Garden of Karma.

It was at this time that Lin Mu also felt the Wood Spirit Qi in the air increasing in concentration.

"The increase is great this time," Lin Mu said as he felt the wood spirit Qi.

Then in a span of a minute, the wood spirit Qi reached such a level that it was now ten percent of the total spirit Qi present in the Garden Of Karma.

"Whoa!" Lin Mu was surprised at this chance. "Didn't think it could cause such an effect."

"It was bound to happen. With the source vein crystal from three peak grade spirit stone mines added to the Garden, the quality of spirit Qi would rise greatly. Usually it would enrich the plants and living beings in its vicinity, but the chance would not be this great.

But in the case of the garden of karma, there are only three plants here. Thus, the change is rather drastic." Xukong explained.

"Hmm... so it is the same as what I have done. Concentrating resources used by a million individuals on a mere handful." Lin Mu replied.

"You could say that," Xukong nodded his head.

~shua~

But the series of events had merely started. As the other two plants also showed some changes.

The Wood Spirit Tulip further spread its roots and the color of its leaves became a deeper shade of green. Since it was a Wood Elemental spirit herb, it was benefiting the most from the increased wood spirit Qi.

Its growth continued until finally a small bud appeared on its top.

"HAH! It's finally budding!" Lin Mu felt excited.

The bud was small, being merely a centimeter in size. It had a dark green color and was tightly closed, giving one no clue about what was hidden in it.

Lin Mu continued to watch it, wondering if it would blossom right away. But his expectations were broken as the bud stopped growing after it appeared.



"I thought it would grow more..." Lin Mu muttered, feeling slightly disappointed.

"This is still great. It growing a bud is a massive thing. After all, if it grew naturally, it would take it several hundred years to form the bud. The process was basically accelerate by thousands of times." Xukong said.

"But then, why is it not growing further?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Even the rapid growth has a limit to it. You could say that it is now at a bottleneck." Xukong answered.

"Hmm, I see." Lin Mu muttered.

He knew that the Wood Spirit Tulip was almost at the level of a Peak grade nascent soul realm cultivator before. And with the growth it had experienced right now, it should be almost at the Dao Shell realm.

'Perhaps when it blossoms, it will be equivalent to the Dao Shell realm?' Lin Mu thought.

~thud~thud~thud~

And while he was observing the Wood Spirit Tulip, several sounds were heard coming from behind him.

"Huh? What?" Lin Mu turned around and saw that the Spirit Apple Tree was the source of it.

Narrowing his eyes, Lin Mu witnessed the Spirit Apple Tree shaking its branches. And when it shook them, the spirit apples hanging on them fell down.

"Why... why is it doing this?" Lin Mu said as he literally saw the branches of the spirit apple tree bending and curling to knock off the spirit apples from the other branches.

It was almost like a man was removing dust from his shoulders.

The spirit apple tree was quick and had already removed all the spirit apples that were growing on it. And it had done this regardless of whether they were ripe or raw. Of all the apples that had fallen, half of them were still unripe.

But once all the spirit apples were gone from the tree, it started to rapidly suck the spirit Qi from the air.

"Hang on... it's not just sucking in normal spirit Qi..." Lin Mu said as he felt the wood spirit Qi being sucked by the tree too.

### **Chapter 1098 Wood Spirit Apple**

Lin Mu continued to watch as the Spirit apple tree started to grow flowers. The flowers were white with a tinge of pink to them, but at the edge of the petals, a line of green could also be seen.

"This is new... the tree never flowered before... it simply produced fruits..." Lin Mu muttered in surprise.

He had seen the Spirit apple trees flower in the Northern town many times before, but never in the garden of Karma.

~sniff~

He took a breath and felt the scent of the spirit apple blossoms spreading in the air.

'Reminds me of the past...' Lin Mu thought as he took in the sweet smell of the blossoms in.

It reminded him of a time long gone. He used to go to the orchards with his mother and watch her work. Sometimes he would fall asleep under the sweet scent of the blossoms, which was very calming.

A well of feelings surged within his heart for a moment but soon stopped as he couldn't smell the scent of the blossoms anymore. Frowning his brows, he opened his eyes.

And when Lin Mu opened his eyes, he saw that the flowers were already wilting and in their place, small bulbs of apples were appearing. Five minutes later, these bulbs grew into full sized apples!

The apples were bigger than what they used to be and had different colors. Some of the apples were red like the normal spirit apples, and some were green.

It was different from the normal green and red apples that the spirit apple tree would bear, they would simply be unripe. It was the same for the sour apple tree that Lin Mu used to eat from in the past.

"They don't seem to be unripe..." Lin Mu muttered as he raised his hand to pluck one.

~rustle~

The tree lightly shook as Lin Mu took hold of the new green apple. He could smell the faint fragrance of the blossoms on it, but it was also mixed with a far sweeter feeling. Finding it to be different, Lin Mu wondered why it had changed.

Probing it with his spirit sense, Lin Mu got his answer.

"Huh? Wood spirit Qi?" Lin Mu was stunned.

He could tell that these green apples were different in that they didn't just contain normal attribute less spirit Qi. But rather the Wood spirit Qi.

Looking at the apple for a moment, Lin Mu took a bite.

~CRUNCH~

The apple was firm in texture, and when his teeth sank in it, a perfect crunch was heard. The sweet juices of the apple spread in Lin Mu's mouth, but the flavor was different than the normal one that he had tasted till now.

~gulp~

After chewing for a bit, Lin Mu swallowed it down and felt the effects it.

"No... it's not just wood spirit Qi..." Lin Mu was surprised.

He could feel pure wood energy spreading through his belly.

Lin Mu's eyes went wide as he stared at the spirit apple tree.

"It... actually made wood elemental apples?" Lin Mu was stunned.

He knew that the difference between a fruit that had elemental spirit Qi and elemental energy was slight, but the uses of it were greatly different.

After all, the elemental spirit Qi could be used for Qi cultivation while the pure elemental energy, which was similar to vital energy was used for body cultivation!

"This is good... now you have a way to actually continue your body cultivation." Xukong said after witnessing everything.

Lin Mu nodded his head and felt happy. Even if he had no body cultivation technique for his fifth treasure organ, that would be his liver, it would still be possible.

As long as he continued to eat the wood elemental spirit apples, or other such materials, he would continue to progress passively. It was the same as what he had done with the Glacial Shell Snail Queen flesh.

Though it would certainly not be as fast as that.

"Who knows how many wood spirit apples I would have to consume for it to be equal to the Glacial Shell Snail Queen flesh? It might not even help me after a certain point." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

Still, it was better than nothing for him and he would be content with it.

"At least it should give you some help until you find a suitable cultivation technique." Xukong spoke.

"Indeed. That will serve as a temporary replacement." Lin Mu nodded his head.

He looked at the spirit apple tree and checked the other apples.

"These ones are the same as before... though the spirit Qi in them is higher than before." Lin Mu analyzed.

Counting the number of wood spirit apples and the normal spirit apples, Lin Mu saw that the ratio was roughly one to ten.

"Ten percent of them can be wood spirit apples... though we still don't know the growth rate of them." Lin Mu said as he started to pluck all the apples from the tree.

After all, the tree would only make more when the already grown and ripen apples were plucked. A couple of minutes later, the tree was free from the fruits and only the vibrant green leaves could be seen on it.

Lin Mu continued to watch it for an hour more, but didn't see any more changes or growth in it.

"Seems like the rapid growth was only in response to the source veins. It has probably returned to its normal growth cycle." Lin Mu reckoned.

He looked at the Purple Sickle Amaranth and knew that it was because of this spirit plant that the change in spirit apple tree happened.

"I wonder... if other elemental spirit plants that produce spirit qi are like this can also have an effect on the spirit apple tree?" Lin Mu said as a few ideas appeared in his mind.

"Might be worth the try. But such plants that can produce elemental spirit Qi are rare and far few in between. You might not find them in this world." Xukong replied.

## Chapter 1099 A Refreshing Experience

Lin Mu was very interested in finding such plants, but knew that the process would be hard.

"Hmm... they just don't have to be plants that made spirit Qi. They also have to be conscious like them." Lin Mu spoke.

"If its that, then the ones you know of in this world are only in the Great Southern Forest." Xukong replied.

"Indeed... but there is no guarantee they produce elemental spirit Qi." Lin Mu added.

"That is true. Not just in this world, plants that produce spirit Qi are very rare. And one's that make their own spirit are even more rare." Xukong said.

"Wait! Their own spirit Qi? You mean not from the air?" Lin Mu said in astonishment.

"Yes... certain plants can make entirely new spirit Qi that does not stem from the world." Xukong confirmed.

Lin Mu knew that the elemental spirit Qi the purple sickle amaranth produced didn't come out of nowhere. Rather, it was transformed by the plant using the attribute less spirit Qi present within the air.

All beings would take spirit Qi from the world itself, whether it be in air, earth or water.

Even in the Lost Immortal's memoirs, Lin Mu had not come across any such plants.

"But... how's that possible senior? How can they make it out of nowhere?" Lin Mu couldn't understand.

"That is just the mystery that the plants hold. Unless you find them and uncover them on your own, there is no way to know." Xukong replied.

Lin Mu would be lying if he didn't say he was greatly interested in this.

He silently added another thing to his goals for the future.

'I'll surely find a plant such as that later.' Lin Mu decided.

Lin Mu and Xukong talked a little more about the current matters and plans before he decided to wake up. He reckoned it had been several hours by now.

"Let's see if Little Shrubby is done or not." Lin Mu muttered as he closed his eyes in the Sleepscape.

He felt his senses fading away and when they finally returned, he was in the Realm world.

~Huu~

Lin Mu took a deep breath as he recalled all that had happened. It was a refreshing experience for him as not only was he reminded of his mother's memories from the fragrance of the apple blossoms, got a way to continue his body cultivation, but also got a goal for the future.

He opened his eyes and looked at the beast in the distance. The Dao Shell with the Dao Embryo had already disappeared by now, which was a sign that Little Shrubby had already adapted to his new cultivation base.

~step~step~step~

Lin Mu stood up and walked up to the beast that seemed to be sleeping.

"Little Shrubby?" Lin Mu rubbed his head.

~grrr~

A low voice came from the beast's mouth, before it lightly shook. His tail moved around as the eyelids twitched.

Then slowly, Little Shrubby opened his eyes.

"Master..." He lightly muttered.

"Congratulation on your breakthrough." Lin Mu spoke as he lightly scratched the beast's ears.

"Mmm...." Little Shrubby enjoyed the scratches for a bit before it finally got up.

"How do you feel?" Lin Mu asked.

"Like I can run across the world nonstop." Little Shrubby replied.

"Haha~" Lin Mu couldn't help but chuckled but reckoned that it was accurate.

Just from the suppressed aura that Lin Mu could sense within Little Shrubby's body, he knew the beast had reached a new level.

"With your bloodlines being strengthened, you should certainly be faster and stronger." Lin Mu nodded his head.

"I want to see it!" Little Shrubby said with excitement.

"Oh you will," Lin Mu said as his expression turned serious. "And we have the perfect place to test it out." He added while gazing out to the south.

...

"Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!" A man wearing the robes of the Zither Wind Sect shouted. "We have to refine all these by the end of this week."

"YES ELDER!" The disciples replied in unison while they continued their task.

Hundreds of them were currently working in what looked like a refinement hall. There were various cauldrons, furnaces and many more tools set up here. The disciples worked on them and refined the many materials that were being given to them by other disciples.

Multiple spirit Qi fluctuations could be felt from the hall, as multiple things happened at once.

Such a scene could be witnessed all over the Zither Wind sect, and the entire sect seemed to be very busy. Though the reason behind it was unknown.

The disciples had been working without a break for the past two months and even they didn't know why it exactly was. At first they had been told it was because they needed to supply the needed resources for the conflict, but now they were not so sure.

"Elder brother, I tallied the shipment logs yesterday and they are too excessive." One of the disciples that was in charge of noting down the production spoke to the man standing next to him.

The man being called elder brother furrowed his brows and looked at his junior brother.

"Keep your voice low." He said in a stern voice. "Do you want to get into trouble?"

~gulp~

The junior brother swallowed his saliva and looked around, making sure that no one was paying attention to him.

"Come with me. We can't talk here." The elder brother spoke.

The two of them went to a small room in the hall which was used to store documents.

"Elder brother, why..."

"I know already." The man was interrupted.

"Huh?" the junior brother was surprised.

"I've been suspecting something was wrong for a while now... the actions of the elders have been extremely absurd. Do you really think our sect, which used to keep to itself and was relatively peaceful for hundreds of years, would suddenly decide to forge an alliance and unleash a war?" The elder brother said.

"That's... true." The junior brother nodded.

"We need to be prepared—" Just as the elder brother was about to say something, he was interrupted.

~KABOOM!!!~

### **Chapter 1100 Chaos At The Zither Wind Sect**

"WHAT WAS THAT ?!!!!!" The junior brother shouted as he tried to stabilize his footing.

The Elder brother caught onto his junior brother's shoulder and looked around.

~Boom~

~Boom~

~Clang~

"NOOO!! MY PILLS!!!"

"DAMMIT! TWO DAYS OF WORK HAS GONE TO SHIT!"

Several cries of pain and frustration were heard as the work that the disciples were doing failed due to the explosion that rocked the ground.

"All disciples stay put!" The elders quickly responded, but were confused about the explosion too.

"We need to check on the disciples—" The junior brother was about to go but was pulled by his elder brother.

"Stop!" He said firmly.

"What? Why brother?" The junior brother asked.

"We can take this chance to leave." The Elder brother said in a low voice while looking around.

"Leave? How can we do that?" the junior brother was confused.

"Fool. Like I was saying before, the Zither Wind sect has gone insane. If we keep on staying with them, we will only suffer. Don't you know the West ocean sect was eradicated?" The elder brother explained.

"But what has that to do with us? Do we just leave the sect because of fear of that?" the junior brother said. "And besides, we will become outlaws if we do that." He added.

"That is a risk we have to take... and if my information is right... the Zither wind sect won't exist long anyway." The elder brother stated.

Hearing this, the junior brother furrowed his brows.

"Where... exactly did you get information like this elder brother?" The junior brother asked, feeling suspicious.

"You don't need to know that for now. Let's just get out of here first." The elder brother replied.

"How do we go out under the gazes of the elders, though?" The junior brother inquired, seeing that the elders were already standing at the gates.

"Come..." The elder brother gestured the junior brother to follow him.

The junior brother silently followed him, and saw that they had returned to the main hall.

"Elders! What's the problem?"

"Yeah, what was that explosion?"

"We lost so many resources in that."

The disciples all complained to the elders, watching over them.

"Just go and do your assigned duties. The other elders will be taking care of the issues outside. All of you just need to work!" The elders firmly stated.

The disciples were intimidated from their words and couldn't say anything, even if they wanted to.

Swallowing down their words, they returned to their work stations.

The elder brother took this chance while they were distracted to take out a certain talisman from his storage treasure. He slapped it onto a particular spot on the wall and quickly moved from there.

"What did you do there?" The junior brother asked doubtfully, not being able to see properly.

"Just follow my lead later. And be ready!" The elder brother warned.

Then he turned and pretended to watch the disciples working and the junior brother could only observe his elder brother for now.

If one looked closely, they would see the hands of the elder brother trembling.

His gaze was locked onto a certain disciple that was working on a cauldron. The cauldrons had collapsed, and he was setting it up straight again. Once he did that, the disciples added resources to it and was just about to activate it.

But just when he touched the formation array that supplied the spirit Qi to it, something happened.

~BOOM!!!~

"ARGH!!!!!" The disciples were sent flying as the cauldron exploded.

"WHAT THE—" The junior disciples were shocked by the sudden explosion.

But that was merely the start...

~BOOM~

Another cauldron nearby exploded, sending more disciples flying and igniting the resources kept in a stack nearby.

~BOOM~

On the other corner, a refinement array collapsed and the spirit tool that was being made was affected. It destabilized and exploded as well!

The shrapnel cut the disciples and even injured the elders with how far it spread.

~BOOM~ BOOM~ BOOM~

One after the other, more and more explosions happened as the formation arrays started to break down.

"NOW!" the elder brother said and ran towards the exit, which was now open with the elders being knocked away as well.

The junior elder frantically ran after his elder brother and felt scared. He knew that it was his elder brother that had caused all this.

'Just to escape, he destroyed the entire formation array of the hall... the punishment for this will be death!' The junior brother was terrified.

In the dust and smoke of explosions that were littered with chaotic spirit Qi fluctuations, the two brothers managed to escape the hall. But upon leaving it they saw that the sect wasn't all good.

~KABOOM~

~BOOM~



Several explosions were happening all over the sect and long stacks of smoke could be seen in the distance.

The hall they were working in was isolated for the most part, thus they had not heard all this happening. Which was the reason why they were confused upon being rocked by an explosions.

"What in the name of heavens is happening?" The junior brother was left speechless.

But the elder brother's reaction was different.

"Just like senior said... his words were correct." The elder brother muttered and took out a small flat stone from his ring.

He held it for a few seconds before getting some information.

"Come! We can't stay here long!" The elder brother grabbed his junior and flew to a particular location.

The junior brother could only be pulled along and was brought to a small servant residence.

~Creak~

The entered the residence and saw several people waiting there. But the most eye catching among them was a man that seemed to have a sharp face. His body was also emitting strong spirit Qi waves.

"D-Dao Treading realm?!" the junior brother was stunned. 'Why is someone like that here?'

Much to his surprise, though, he saw his brother stepping forward.

"Thank you for your information Senior Yulong!" The elder brother said with gratitude.

"Mm... Come in, we'll leave in a short while." The man named Senior Yulong replied.