

Walker 1101

Chapter 1101 HE IS LIN MU!

The junior brother was utterly confused with all this. And he had many reasons for that too.

Firstly, his senior brother had basically blown up the refinement hall. Then he had gotten them out of it without permission. And now they were here meeting a Dao Treading realm cultivator who could easily be a supreme elder in the sect.

All of it was greatly confusing for him, and he didn't know what to make of it.

For now, he just decided to watch his elder brother and continue to watch, hoping that his mind would calm down somehow.

"Senior Yulong, are all of them here?" The elder brother asked.

"Only a handful are left. They should be here soon... and if not, we have no choice but to leave." Yulong replied.

"I see... but aren't we a little early? I thought your information said it would take a week more." The elder brother asked.

"Yeah, we were surprised too senior." The others chimed in as well.

"You are not alone." Yulong spoke, much to their shock. "I was caught off guard too."

"WHAT!?" The people here exclaimed.

"How is that possible?" The elder brother asked.

"Well... I was originally supposed to initiate this. But..." Yulong took a pause and took out a large jade slip.

~shua~

The jade slip activated and a stream of runes came out of it. The runes all joined together and formed into a formation that transformed into a screen. A second later, several scenes appeared on this screen.

"Instead of me... an unexpected person has taken the chance." Yulong stated.

The disciples all looked at the screen and were shocked to hell.

"Who... what... are they?" The disciples could barely speak.

On the screen, they could see two beings. One man and one beast. The man had a golden sheen on his body and tens of spirit weapons flew around him.

The beast on the other hand was massive and was covered with flames. Its true figure couldn't be seen, but with every swipe of his claws, large fire balls shot out, burning and destroying everything in their path.

The disciples watched as the man in the screen, was intercepted by other elders.

"Isn't that the Supreme elder and the first and second high elders!?" The disciples identified.

But what they saw only flipped their understanding of the world. The man with the golden sheen on his body, who should have been suppressed and killed with ease, beat up the elders.

His golden fists were like hammers that pulverized their flesh and bone, leaving them crying out for mercy. But the cold look on the man's face only terrified them even more.

"EEEEK!" A few disciples screamed as they saw an unbelievable scene.

"The Supreme elder is dead?" They saw as the man with the golden fists knocked the supreme elder's head clean off with a punch whose power was unfathomable.

And just as they saw this, an explosion was heard outside.

~KABOOM!~

~RUMBLE~

"AAAH!" The disciples were startled as they saw the corner of the residence being blown off.

In response to this, Yulong flipped his free hand and threw out three talismans that quickly formed a triangular barrier around them.

But with the part of the residence destroyed, the disciples could see the scene outside. And what they saw there almost made them faint.

"A head?"

"No... that's the supreme elder's head!"

Lying close to the residence was nothing but the supreme elder's head, which they had just seen getting punched off from his neck.

~ROAR!!!~

A thunderous roar shook the sect as a crushing spirit Qi pressure was released.

~THUD~THUD~THUD~

Several of the weaker disciples were unable to bear it and directly fell to their knees.

"UGH!" The junior brother gritted his teeth, but still managed to hold on.

"Dao treading realm?" The elder brother gazed at the screen and saw that the roar had come from none other than the beast.

"Seems like my information was a bit wrong..." Yulong spoke before a smile appeared on his face. "It is even better than I imagined, AHAHAHA!" he suddenly burst out laughing.

The disciples were far too terrified upon hearing that it was a Dao treading realm beast wreaking havoc on the sect rather than be confused by Yulong's actions.

"Senior... we need to leave. We won't survive in the collateral damage!" The elder brother said hurriedly.

"No..." but much to his disbelieving, Yulong denied.

"What? WHY?!" The elder brother questioned in doubt.

The others who were also coming to terms were confused as well.

"Why can't we leave? We'll only die if we stay here." The others spoke.

"Ahahaha! You all don't understand. Now that he is here... this is the safest place. If you try to leave the sect you'll be killed before you even step in the outer court." Yulong said.

"How can that be? Wasn't our goal to leave in the first place?"

"YES! Senior, you promised us that you will help us escape the sect!" the female disciples pleaded.

"That was indeed the case before... but look," Yulong pointed to the screen.

The eyes of the disciples stared as the scene on it changed. Now they saw droves of disciples trying to run out. But just as they reached the border of the outer court, they were all ignited!

The small flames that were burning on the periphery and looked rather unassuaged suddenly blazed and grew into a wall, burning everyone that passed through it.

"A formation?" Someone wondered.

"No... that is pure skill." One of the Nascent soul disciples spoke in shock.

"Indeed... with that man and beast here, our goals are already fulfilled. Now we just have to stay put and wait for him to save us." Yulong stated.

"Save us!?" Everyone was confused after hearing it.

"Indeed." Yulong nodded his head.

"Who is he?" the elder brother couldn't help but questions.

"He is the one who destroyed the West ocean sect and the Ripple mist sect. He is the alliance leader of The Long cloud Alliance; LIN MU!"

Chapter 1102 End Of Zither Wind Sect

Lin Mu's name was not something that was known outside of the alliance itself, thus the disciples who heard it were confused.

"That's the alliance leader of the Long Cloud Alliance? How come we've never heard of him?" Someone asked.

"Yeah, isn't the alliance leader supposed to be the Patriarch of the Long Cloud sect, Yi You?" the junior brother asked.

"That is what was said to be on the surface, but the true person behind it all is him." Yulong replied with a smile.

'Lin Mu, Lin Mu... it's been such a long time. If not for you showing me the way in life, perhaps I would have already been dead.' Yulong thought to himself as a few memories passed through his mind.

"What do we do now, then? Won't we be caught in the crossfire if we stay here?" The junior brother asked and took another look at the broken roof.

"Look at them, their attacks have already flattened half of the outer court!" One of the disciples pointed at the screen.

On it, one could see Lin Mu standing on the ground which had caved in and turned into a crater. The ground had sunk nearly three meters deep, and the radius of the crater along was about a kilometer!

Standing in the crater Lin Mu gazed at the two men beneath him.

"Begone from this world." Lin Mu lightly spoke and stomped on the greatly injured bodies of the two high elders.

He had already killed the supreme elder and the two high elders were the last of the Dao Treading realm experts that were currently present in the Zither Wind sect. Lin Mu's spirit sense had already scanned the entire sect and he knew that there was no one else among the sect's higher ups here.

'Where did the patriarch of the Zither Wind sect go? Did he go to the Gu Legion like the Ripple Mist sect's patriarch did?' Lin Mu wondered.

He didn't know why the patriarch would leave their sects unattended, without a reason.

"Gu Yao probably summoned them and have been keeping them there." Lin Mu could only think of this for now.

~BOOM~

And while he was getting thinking of the next course of action, a few more explosions happened in the distance.

~ROAR~

Lin Mu looked and saw Little Shrubby fighting against seven elders at once. Or rather, fighting was an overstatement, as the elders were being beaten with little to no effort. Their attacks couldn't even touch Little Shrubby, as he could outrun them.

And they couldn't bear Little Shrubby's attacks as they were filled with a heat and crushing power that broke through their defenses with ease.

"Finish it Little Shrubby, we got more stuff to do." Lin Mu spoke.

~GRRR~

"Alright!" Little Shrubby replied with a growl that terrified the four elder that were still alive.

~SHUA~

~BOOM~

Little Shrubby moved at such a great speed that the very air tore apart, creating a sonic boom.

"AARGGHHHHH!!!—" The elders could only let out half a shout before they were directly exploded!

~HISS~

Their remains were directly turned to dust and blown away by the wind, leaving behind nothing.

~shua~

Little Shrubby moved and appeared next to Lin Mu just a second later.

"I'm done~" Little Shrubby spoke.

"Did you get their storage?" Lin Mu asked.

"Of course!" Little Shrubby shook his neck and nine storage treasures fell out of it.

They had been caught into Little Shrubby's fur when he had attacked the elder. At his speed, one couldn't even see when he picked all of them up.

"Perfect." Lin Mu said before taking a quick look through their storage treasure.

He wanted to find some more clues about Gu Yao or the patriarch or anything basically.

"Hmm..." Lin Mu furrowed his brows as the storage treasures of the nine elders were basically empty, other than a few pills and spirit stones.

Their spirit weapons had already been destroyed during the battle with Little Shrubby. Mid grade or even high grade spirit weapons weren't durable enough to withstand Little Shrubby's attacks now.

Though Lin Mu didn't really mind the weapons, as he had plenty of his own.

"Did you find anything?" Little Shrubby asked.

"No... it's strange." Lin Mu replied before taking a look through the storage treasure of the two high elders he had killed earlier.

"Strange... they have even fewer resources than the other elders. And don't have anything else either." Lin Mu said after searching.

"What about the supreme elder?" Xukong suddenly spoke.

"His body didn't have any spatial storage treasures on them." Lin Mu replied.

"Did you check his head?" Xukong suggested.

"His head?" Lin Mu furrowed his brows, then recalled that the supreme elder did have a hair clip tying his hair in place.

"Oh yeah, I almost forgot about that." Lin Mu said before spreading his spirit sense.

"There it is." Lin Mu spotted the head nearly two kilometers away in the inner court of the sect.

Lin Mu flew towards the place where the head was, and Little Shrubby followed after him.

~sniff~

But just as they reached it, Little Shrubby sensed something.

"There are some people here, master." Little Shrubby said through their link.

Lin Mu raised his brows and checked with his spirit sense again, not finding anything.

Even though he didn't find anything right away, Lin Mu didn't doubt little shrubby's words.

'A formation array to hide themselves?' Lin Mu guessed.

It was rather surprising to him as a formation array that could hide from his spirit sense was not simple.

Narrowing his eyes, Lin Mu picked up the head of the supreme elder and took the hair clip from it.

"It's indeed the spatial storage tool he has." Lin Mu confirmed.

But he didn't check it right away, instead he gazed at the broken residence a short distance from him.

"Why don't you all come out? I know you all see me." Lin Mu calmly spoke.

But even though his voice was calm, the disciples hiding in the residence couldn't help but shiver upon hearing it. After all, Lin Mu had just killed the strongest elders of their sect without even so much as breaking a sweat!

There were no injuries on his body, and not even his robes seemed to have been dirtied.

Then there was also the giant beast next to him, that was glaring at them. The powerful aura coming from the beast was another terrifying factor to him.

For ten seconds, no sound was heard from the residence.

"AHahahah~" But then a man's laughter was heard.

Lin Mu looked on as a man walked out from the residence. And when he did, the formation array isolating the residence also disappeared, allowing him to perceive the disciples of the Zither wind sect hiding inside.

Lin Mu's spirit sense swept over them, making them almost faint.

'Such spirit sense... not even patriarch is on this level...!' The elder brother thought to himself as a bead of cold sweat dripped down the side of his temple.

Lin Mu also saw all their expressions of fear and nervousness and guessed why they were there.

'So they took shelter there due to the battle... can't complain about that.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

He could also tell that these disciples were free from the Human Controlling blood curse as well as the muddy spirit Qi of the pills of grace. This combined meant that he had no reason to hold a grudge against them.

Besides, Lin Mu hadn't killed all the people of the sect either. He had not targeted the common disciples but only those that were clearly under the human controlling blood curse or had taken the pills of grace.

Even the flame barrier that Little Shrubby had set up with his new understanding of fire only targeted those that had that scent on them. The flames would react with merely a thought as Little Shrubby could smell everything that had happened around him.

Thus, the actual loss of human life in the sect was not absolute. Though the numbers of disciples that had taken the pills of grace was still rather high. And Lin Mu couldn't let that go.

Hence, even with Lin Mu's conservative efforts, over half of the sect had still be eradicated.

But all that was put at the back of his mind as Lin Mu now had a new thing to focus on for now.

Lin Mu watched as a man came and stood some distance away from him.

"What's a Dao Treading realm cultivator like you doing here? You are certainly not an elder of the sect." Lin Mu spoke as he knew each and every elder with the information he had been given a while ago.

"You are certainly not the same as I remember you... Lin Mu." Yulong spoke.

Lin Mu raised his brows, as this was the first time he was recognized.

"And who might you be?" Lin Mu questioned, not minding that the man knew him.

"Ah! I almost forgot." Yulong replied before he took out a pill and ate it.

Lin Mu let him do it as he felt no threat from the man. But a few seconds later, he saw the man's face change. It twitched and wiggled before its features started to change. The sharp jawline became a bit more curved while the eyes widened.

The brows lifted and the nose became bigger as well. About half a minute later, the appearance of the man had entirely changed!

"Jiao Fang!?" Lin Mu was surprised, seeing an old acquaintance.

Chapter 1103 Jiao Fang: Ally Or Foe?

Lin Mu had not expected to see an old acquaintance like him here. Though he didn't know how to think about the man either. After their collaboration at the Tri Cauldron Peony Sect Lin Mu hadn't talked to the man at all as their links were broken.

Not to mention, Lin Mu wasn't too keen about the man's character either, as he had known the man's secrets and all that he had done in the past, including slaughtering his own companions.

And even recently, he had been the one to have killed Wu Xun. But then he had also killed a lot of the people of the Gu Legion as well as the sects of the Zither Wind Alliance. this it was also a bit in their favor.

Jiao Fang too gazed at Lin Mu and had a smile on his face.

"I'm pleased that you remember me, Alliance leader Lin Mu." Jiao Fang spoke. "I've been intending to meet you for quite some time."

"I see... and might I ask why are you here in the sect... or how did you come to this sect?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Ah, of course. Though I reckon I should at least establish the fact that I do not mean you any harm, and neither do I mean any harm to the Long Cloud Alliance." Jiao Fang stated.

"Oh? So you want to ally with us?" Lin Mu questioned.

"You could say that." Jiao Fang answered flatly.

'He doesn't seem very keen on this either.' Lin Mu could tell from his tone.

Lin Mu didn't outright say it to the man's face, though. He could easily guess that the man had some agenda of his own. After all, if he wanted to ally with them, he could have very easily come to the Long Cloud sect to do that. There was no way the sect would reject another Dao Treading realm cultivator joining them.

Then there was also the fact that Lin Mu forehand suspicions about Jiao Fang and some more things he had done. Lin Mu had not forgotten that the man had been called Yulong and that there was another Yulong who had been to the Iron Bull city and how he had joined the people of the Gu Legion there.

Lin Mu had a lot of questions and he was sure as hell going to get the answers from Jiao Fang.

'And if he does not give satisfying answers... perhaps he doesn't need to exist either.' Lin Mu thought to himself as a cold look flashed in his eyes.

Jiao Fang involuntarily shivered and felt a hint of danger from Lin Mu.

While he didn't know why he felt it, he knew that it wasn't a good idea to make the man who had just killed half of the sect wait.

"Senior Lin Mu, I'll we'll talk soon. But I have a promise to fulfill first." Jiao Fang replied.

"A promise?" Lin Mu asked, feeling doubtful and then remembered there were more people here.

Jiao Fang nodded his head and turned back to face the broken residence.

"Come out, all of you." Jiao Fang called. "Come out and greet Alliance Leader Lin Mu."

~gulp~

Unified sound of gulping could be heard as the disciples in the residence felt a bit afraid. But at the same time, they knew it was not a good idea to delay at all.

Gritting his teeth, the elder brother was the one to step out first.

"Greetings Alliance Leader Lin Mu." The elder brother said with his hands cupped and his head bowed.

The Elder brother was older looking to be in his mid forties. Compared to Lin Mu, he was the same age to be his father. And yet he didn't mind activating subserviently. Or rather, seeing Lin Mu's young appearance, he was even more terrified.

'Just what kind of an expert is this? There is no information about him at all and yet he is this strong? How deep and hidden must his power and influence must be?' The elder brother thought to himself.

He had been in the Zither Wind sect for nearly two hundred years now and had joined it back when he wasn't even at the Qi refining realm. When he joined, he was a mere servant and had reached the position of an overseeing inner court disciple with his own handwork.

He could even be said to be a little talented as he had reached the Nascent soul realm at the age of less than three hundred. Though he was only at the lowest stage of the Infant Soul Stage.

But he was not alone here either. Once he rose up in status, he also helped his younger brother along. The younger brother wasn't his blood brother, but just someone his father adopted. And yet the bond between them was no less than that of real brothers.

Having greeted Lin Mu first, his young brother flowed after him too.

"Greetings Alliance Leader Lin Mu."

With the two brothers taking the lead, the rest of the disciples appeared as well and greeted Lin Mu in unison.

Lin Mu of course, didn't care for such formalities and didn't require such actions from others. But it still gave him an opportunity to assess these disciples. From their expressions, he could tell this much that they weren't really mad about the Zither Wind Sect being destroyed.

Which was strange, as Lin Mu hadn't done anything to make them act like this. After all, unlike the Ripple Mist sect, he hadn't shown them the reality of the sect and what they had been doing.

'Is Jiao Fang behind this?' Lin Mu wondered.

And just as Lin Mu looked at the man, he understood the look and began his explanation.

"Senior Lin Mu, these disciples are all those that have learned the truth of the Zither Wind Alliance over the years. They were suspicious and didn't feel comfortable here and were looking for a means to escape." Jiao Fang explained.

"And I'm guessing you decided to be the one to assist them with it?" Lin Mu replied.

Chapter 1104 Jiao Fang's Goals And Four Reborn

The disciples standing behind Jiao Fang nervously looked at the two of them, afraid to let out even breathe loudly.

"Precisely." Jiao Fang spoke. "It also served my purpose, thus I gave them a means to escape. I even came here to take them personally and was going to cause some chaos to get the right opportunity." He added, and took a pause.

"Though... you came before I ever got to doing that." Jiao Fang said with slight pleasure on his face.

"Very well... since you want to get them out, you can. Though I don't think you will face any resistance now, they should be able to leave on their own." Lin Mu replied.

"There are still dangers lingering in this sect, Senior Lin Mu. We will have to guide them out." Jiao Fang stated.

Lin Mu raised his brows and guessed what Jiao Fang was talking about.

He then waved his hand and withdrew several things from the ring. "Do you mean these?"

~thud~thud~thud~

In front of Jiao Fang landed chunks of black flesh and bones. The disciples who glanced at it were scared and wondered what did this belong to. But Jiao Fang knew exactly what it was.

"You... got rid of the Reborn already?" Jiao Fang was stunned.

"They were the first I got rid of upon entering the sect. Only after I had gotten rid of all of them did I attack the elders." Lin Mu answered.

Hearing this Jiao Fang was left confused and surprised. He knew about the existence of the Reborn hidden in the Zither wind sect. They were to act as a backup plan for Gu Yao and would be unleashed when a great trouble came upon the sect.

They could act as a sword to initiate and attack, a shield to defend from foes and as a dagger to cull any internal resistance. The Reborn were to be released out, if a specific amount of people died in the sect or if anyone that Gu Yao had deemed worthy within the sect died.

They would also be released if the disciples of the sect started to protest and tried to escape.

The reborn would awaken and consume all those that opposed and kick start the next stage of Gu Yao's plan early.

Jiao Fang was sure that now that Lin Mu had basically killed all the elders of the sect, the Reborn was bound to be released. It was also the threat that would prevent them from leaving, as they were kept not in the sect but rather the outskirts.

The Zither Wind sect also had more than just one Reborn. While Jiao Fang didn't know the exact number, he did know that the strongest Reborn amount them was at least equivalent to the Dao treading realm.

Even he didn't have the confidence to kill all of them and had only planned to escape them using some skills and techniques of his. He wasn't even completely sure about saving all the disciples.

And they weren't exactly important to him, either. He was merely using them as a means to an end. If the disciples escaped and the chaos caused by him spread, the reborn would awaken and destroy the sect.

All this would eventually lead to the same result that he wanted.

But now with Lin Mu's appearance, a new route had appeared that still took him to the same result.

"I-is... is this what you warned us about, Senior Yulong?" The elder brother asked after mustering some courage.

"Yes... these are what the Gu Legion and the Zither Wind alliance have been making in collaboration." Jiao Fang said before giving them a short explanation on how they were made.

Lin Mu let the man explain himself while he scanned the area with his spirit sense.

'The stores of their resources were already for the most part when I came here. It also seemed like it was all done in a hurry. Gu Yao must have picked up on what I was doing and got them to shift everything away.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

When he had entered the Zither Wind sect, the first thing he had done was to look for the hidden resources. But since he didn't find them, he was suspicious and didn't know how that had happened.

Later he discovered the Reborn that were hidden outside the sect's main area, but still within its territory. There were a total of four of them, out of which two had strength that was equivalent to that of Dao Treading realm and two at the very peak of the Dao Shell realm.

Thankfully, killing them was a very easy task for Lin Mu and only took a single attack to break them apart. And since they were in a sealed state too, it was even easier.

With the reborn erased, Lin Mu finally decided to attack the sect. And the place he started with was the place that would hurt them the most: the blood pools.

He summoned Little Shrubby and devastated them in a matter of moments. Little Shrubby finally got to show his powers that were worthy of praise.

It was also at this time that the other elders found out about him and were quick to appear. The explosions that were heard in the refinement hall were also due to Lin Mu blasting the entire blood pool hall to smithereens.

Since the formation arrays were deeply connected with all parts of the sect, the damage dealt to it had far reaching effects. Which was the reason why the refinement hall shook and everyone was startled despite it being protected by an isolating and defensive formation array.

Lin Mu stopped his search when Jiao Fang spoke to him again and was done with the disciples.

"The disciples will now take a leave. Do you have a place you can recommend they can go?" Jiao Fang asked with a smile.

Lin Mu looked at the pale faces of the disciples and knew that the truth was not easy for them.

Chapter 1105 Circumstances Of The Past

Lin Mu decided to do the same that he had done for the Ripple Mist Sect diciest for them.

"Go to the Green Mill city southwest of here. There is an alliance outpost there, they will take you in." Lin Mu spoke before making a token and giving it to them.

The disciples looked at the token and saw a character inscribed on it. They couldn't read it, but the appearance of it was rather profound to them. Jiao Fang looked over it and narrowed his eyes.

"Ordained?" He actually managed to read it.

"This means ordained, Senior Yulong?" The elder brother asked.

"Yes... just keep it to yourself and do as Senior Lin Mu said. Quickly leave the sect. The farther away you are from here, the better it will be for you." Jiao Fang replied, not intending to explain to them about the character.

"As you command Senior!" The disciples all cupped their hands and swiftly left.

The elder brother actually took out what looked like a large cart from his storage treasure. The cart expanded and became three times the original size. The rest of the disciples who couldn't fly as fast as the others jumped onto the cart and the elder brother controlled it.

~SHUA~

The cart took flight and disappeared beyond the hills. It was actually a spirit vehicle!

Once the disciples were gone, Jiao Fang looked back at Lin Mu.

"Shall we find a place to talk?" Jiao Fang asked.

"Yes... I also need to get some clues to the Gu Legion here." Lin Mu replied.

"I believe I can help you with that." Jiao Fang said with a smile.

"Of course... you joined them too, didn't you?" Lin Mu questioned.

"I did indeed... though for proper reasons." Jiao Fang said as he flew up. "Follow me,"

Lin Mu followed behind the man while Little Shrubby went away to clean up. He had been given orders to gather anything valuable that he could find. Little Shrubby already had many spatial storage treasures with him, and he would be able to get tons of stuff.

And if he found something that he couldn't store or had reached full capacity, all he would need to do is to mark the place and Lin Mu would come to get it later on.

With the master and beast splitting up work, they became a lot more efficient.

'He's taking me to the main peak?' Lin Mu noticed.

Jiao Fang was flying towards the main peak of the Zither Wind sect. This was where all the higher ups of the sect lived and also where its great hall was located.

In less than two minutes they were there, and nothing could stop them as all the formation arrays had already broken down by now. There were still some disciples left here, but when they saw Lin Mu and Jiao Fang they quickly ran away.

The two of them didn't care much for them either and let them escape. These people were no threat to them.

Soon, the two of them were in the private chambers of the Patriarch of the Zither Wind sect.

"We'll talk here." Jiao Fang spoke.

"That's fine with me." Lin Mu causally spoke and scanned the chambers with his spirit sense.

He still didn't trust Jiao Fang fully and wanted to ensure that there was no trap here. Though Lin Mu wouldn't get injured or affected by most traps now.

"I believe you want to know why I've been doing all this?" Jiao Fang asked.

"You got that right. Speak... why would someone like you reach the Dao Treading realm this quickly, kill Wu Xun, join Gu Legion, and then go against them like this?" Lin Mu questioned in a row.

~Sigh~

"It all started from when you escaped from the Tri Cauldron Peony sect." Jiao Fang said and took a deep breath.

"When you had first spoken that you wanted to take things from the vaults, I had not believed you entirely. But then you proved me wrong and got everything you wanted. Not only that, but you also managed to escape the pursuit of the patriarch of the Tri Cauldron Sect and a lot of elders." Jiao Fang spoke, a hint of awe in his eyes.

"After you were gone, I saw the effects it had on the sect. I saw the blatant blame game that was played among themselves. I soon understood that there was something sinister going on in the sect.

Thus I decided to leave the sect and learn more on my own. Then with some difficulties and a little help, I managed to fake my death and left the Tri Cauldron Peony sect.

That turned out to be the best decision I made as I later learned that most of the disciples of the Tri Cauldron Sect were forced into seclusion, quoting the lack of resources due to your theft.

The name of the 'Lightning Thief' could often be heard among the disciples and there were many that resented you. After all, it was only after your actions that their life became complicated and tough." Jiao Fang explained.

Hearing his words, Lin Mu could tell what must have happened in the Tri Cauldron Peony sect.

"Gu Yao turned the disciple into Pills of Grace too, didn't he?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Yes... the disciples of the Tri Cauldron Peony sect were actually the first 'ingredients' to be used for it. They were the first test subject and it was only after three-quarters of the disciples were all drained and killed did Gu Yao stop his work.

Though the true reason behind his stopping was that he had already gained some success with it, and didn't need weaker disciples as much. The pills of Grace have been perfected over six years now." Jiao Fang answered, only making Lin Mu feel disgusted and angry about the traitor of the world.

"And what about you...? You are in the Dao Treading realm. I don't think that is possible to do so fast without very unique condition." Lin Mu questioned.

Jiao Fang was sure that Lin Mu would ask him questions about his cultivation, as it was easily the most shocking part about him. Forget Lin Mu, even he himself wouldn't have believed it in the past. And yet, it had become a fact.

"That is another story... though a part of it is something you should know already." Jiao Fang spoke.

"Yulong? That expert of the Zither Wind sect?" Lin Mu stated.

"Indeed. After the information I found in then sect: Yulong's mnemonics, I went on to discover more places where he had hidden resources and some skills. I found all of them two years after leaving the Tri Cauldron Peony sect.

And those resources were enough to let me break through to the Nascent Soul realm.

But when I found the last place where the resources were hidden by Yulong, I found something else there too." Jiao Fang said and took a pause.

Lin Mu continued listening to the man and was fully invested in his words now.

"What I found was not any resources in that location, but Yulong himself!" Jiao Fang stated.

"What? How's that possible? Wasn't Yulong an elder of the Zither wind sect and had died a while back?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Well, he was still... dead. But a part of him was alive." Jiao Fang said, surprising Lin Mu.

Of course Lin Mu knew that Nascent soul realm and above cultivators could survive even if their bodies were killed. They could switch to their Nascent Soul and avoid dying.

"Did you find a Nascent soul?" Lin Mu asked.

"No.... It was actually a full soul. After Yulong reached close to the end of his lifespan, he had already prepared a method of survival. He was in reality, a spy from the forbidden continent and had been present in The Great Zhou Empire for a long time.

And due to being from the Forbidden Continent, Yulong had access to certain northern Tribe techniques that were unique to them. In these techniques, he found one that could allow him to survive even after death.

And this wasn't the death one would face after their body died. But rather one in which their entire self was wiped out." Jiao Fang said, thatching Lin Mu's interest greatly.

"While I couldn't find the technique that Yulong had used, I could still know about it from his memories.

What the technique did was to kill the body of the user before they died naturally. Then the True Soul of the user would be transferred to their Nascent soul and all the spirit Qi and the rest of their cultivation base would be sealed in it too.

Yulong went several steps forward and even added several precious resources to it, increasing its value by severalfold.

Then, he left it in the tombs waiting for someone to find it." Jiao Fang finished speaking.

"And you came up it in the end... But that still doesn't explain how you reached the Dao Treading realm as even Yulong was only at the Nascent Soul realm, wasn't he?" Lin Mu asked in doubt.

"That is a part that Yulong had fooled everyone with.

He was actually at the peak of the Dao Shell realm. It was just that he had hidden it well and prevented others from learning about it.

And when I touched the vessel in which the soul of the man was kept in, I was merged with it directly!

Yulong tried to take over my body and wreaked havoc on it as well." Jiao Fang answered, much to Lin Mu's surprise.

Chapter 1106 Forced Soul Fusion

The takeover of a body was something that was possible to do by basically any Nascent soul cultivator. Though there were conditions for it too. A nascent soul could forcefully take over a body temporarily, but unless it found a compatible body, it wouldn't be able to stay for long.

This could be mitigated by several treasures or by simply being stronger.

For example, the take-over attempt of a Dao Shell realm cultivator would be more powerful than that of a Nascent soul cultivator, and that of a Dao Treading realm cultivator would be even more powerful.

Thus, Jiao Fang managing to survive even now was no less than a miracle.

"Then... how are you still alive?" Lin Mu asked.

"A little luck, and a little willpower." Jiao Fang replied with a slight smile.

"Hmm... it's not just that simple though, is it?" Lin Mu said.

"You could say that." Jiao Fang spoke with a smile.

Lin Mu narrowed his eyes and closed them for a moment before opening them again. This time though, his eyes had a different look to them.

Jiao Fang who saw Lin Mu staring at him, felt like all his secrets were being revealed. Lin Mu's eyes looked past his body and easily searched the depths without even needing the use of spirit sense.

And in the depths of Jiao Fang's Dantian, Lin Mu saw a Nascent soul. If one looked at this Nascent soul with their spirit sense, they would find it to be normal and looking like Jiao Fang.

But with Lin Mu's enchained spatial perception, he could tell that it was all merely an illusion. Hidden within that Nascent soul was the true nascent soul!

And this nascent soul didn't just look like Jiao Fang... but another man as well. The two faces kept on changing from time to time, making it look like they were fighting with each other.

'Two fused Nascent souls?' Lin Mu thought to himself.

Xukong who had been silently observing everything, couldn't help but speak up after seeing this.

"A forced Soul fusion? He actually ended up in this state." Xukong spoke.

"Forced Soul Fusion? What's that senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"As you know that Nascent souls can be used to take over other bodies. But there are also ways to prevent that. While some treasures and tools simply repel that, there are a few tools that come with another feature.

These tools would trigger the owner's Nascent soul to detonate if it was forcefully taken over!" Xukong answered. "Instead of letting one's body be taken over by someone else and dying, this was a means of mutual destruction."

"What?!" Lin Mu was stunned.

"It is a vengeful way of ending oneself, but is also considered more dignified than letting one's body be taken over by someone else. It is surprisingly something that the orthodox sects approve of." Xukong added.

"How is this related to the forced soul fusion though senior?" Lin Mu asked.

"Forced Soul fusion is one of the extremely rare outcomes of a failed takeover. This mostly happens when the one taking over is stronger than the living cultivator. But then the living cultivator would detonate their Nascent soul, trying to kill both in the process.

But the Nascent soul trying to takeover manages to survive the detonation... at least partially. Then to preserve itself, it would fuse with whatever is left of the original owner's Nascent soul.

Usually this would end up in the stronger cultivator managing to take over the body, but the remnants of the previous owner would change the soul. They would get their memories switched or erased. Their personalities might change and they could even turn insane." Xukong explained.

Hearing all this, Lin Mu could now understand what must have happened with Jiao Fang. With all that he had found through Yulong's inheritances, Lin Mu reckoned there was either some treasure or spirit tool that could allow his Nascent soul to detonate during a forceful takeover.

"Then Jiao Fang is actually that Yulong?" Lin Mu asked doubtfully.

"In his case though... it seems like the rate of fusion is in the favor of Jiao Fang. I don't know if he was simply lucky, or if Yulong's soul had become too weak, but the soul of Jiao Fang managed to retain most of its part.

From what I can tell, the true soul of Yulong that was sealed with the Nascent soul has forty to fifty percent control over Jiao Fang's Nascent soul. But at the same time, Jiao Fang's True Soul is completely intact and is still in his body.

So in all this, Jiao Fang could have been said to have benefited." Xukong replied.

"Hmm... so this turned out to be his fortunate encounter, huh..." Lin Mu muttered in his mind.

While Lin Mu and Xukong had this conversation in their shared mind space, not even a minute had passed by. During this entire time, Lin Mu had been staring at Jiao Fang, making him more and more nervous.

"Senior?" Jiao Fang couldn't take it anymore and spoke up.

"Are you Jiao Fang or are you Yulong? Which soul is under control now?" Lin Mu questioned plainly.

Hearing this, Jiao Fang's pupil constricted. 'He knows?!

~gulp~

Jiao Fang gulped down forcefully and didn't speak for a few seconds. But Lin Mu simply kept on staring deep into his eyes, making him feel more nervous than ever in his life.

"Of course I am, Jiao Fang! All that is left of Yulong are the memories and his cultivation base." Jiao Fang answered.

"Hmm... but your Nascent soul says other wise. The two souls are fighting..." Lin Mu replied.

"That... that's just the Nascent soul. I have full control over the body and the cultivation base. And the current sate of my Nascent soul is only temporary. The stronger I get the weaker Yulong's Nascent soul will become.

There will come a time when I'll be able to purge out his remnant consciousness from my Nascent soul entirely!" Jiao Fang explained.

Chapter 1107 Gu Yao's Location

Learning that Jiao Fang had fused with the remnants of Yulong, Lin Mu was not ready to fully trust the man.

He had already heard from Xukong that people such as this could change personalities in the blink of an eye and others wouldn't even know. There was no saying whether this might happen with Jiao Fang, but Lin Mu wouldn't bet on that.

'The oath would not work on him either, would it, senior?' Lin Mu asked.

"No... the oath affects the true soul. Thus it would only affects Jiao Fang. Thus if Yulong ever takes control, the oath would not come in effect. So unless we make Yulong take the oath, it wouldn't work." Xukong replied.

"And for Yulong to take the oath, he would have to be in control... right? No use in that either." Lin Mu muttered in his mind.

With the options being either to kill Jiao Fang entirely or to keep him on a short leash for now, Lin Mu decided to do the latter. While there were risks to trusting Jiao Fang, his earlier actions were still inclined towards Lin Mu and showed that he was trying to be an ally.

"Alright... you won't have my trust now, though. You will have to earn that." Lin Mu said to Jiao Fang who took a breath of relief.

"That is fine. And I think I can do that." Jiao Fang replied.

"And how will you be doing that?" Lin Mu asked.

"By providing you with information." Jiao Fang replied. "About the Gu Legion and Gu Yao." He added.

"Alright, go on speak." Lin Mu ordered.

"I think I should first tell you how I got into the Gu Legion first, it is related to all." Jiao Fang said, to which Lin Mu nodded.

Lin Mu was interested about that and wondered how that had happened. After all, Jiao Fang had killed Wu Xun and several of the Gu Legion members. If anything, Gu Yao should have tried to kill him or at least get him under the Human Controlling Blood curse.

But from what he could see, nothing of that sort had happened, which made Lin Mu rather intrigued about it all.

"I wanted to pull the attention of Gu Legion and Gu Yao, thus I took the most obvious approach and killed their members that were important. I also did it by changing my appearance enough to look similar to Yulong.

There were some pills in his inheritance that I found that could achieve this. Though their effects are only temporary.

Killing the Gu Legion members and allies certainly got me in their eyes, and they started a hunt for me. After I reckoned it all the right time, I went to a place where they had their people stationed and voluntarily walked in.

I let them take me to a Gu Legion base. There they were going to interrogate me, but I made use of Yulong's memories. Showing myself as the True Yulong who had come into the Great Zhou Empire a long time ago as a spy, I managed to get an audience with Gu Yao.

The man was not trusting of me, of course and inquired about Yulong from the Northern Tribes.

The Northern Tribes had prepared for this a long time ago, but had not expected for Yulong to actually succeed in his insane plan. It was the way he was truly going to switch his identity and fool even the world.

They didn't want the repeat of the old times when the World's Ordained defeated them.

With a deep spy like Yulong among the higher ups of the Great Zhou continent, they Northern Tribes would always be a few steps ahead.

Of course, they also had ways to prevent themselves from being fooled. They set up methods to verify Yulong's identity. But with his memories, it was a piece of cake for me to pass their check.

With that done, Gu Yao had no choice but to accept me and take me in as an ally. And since Yulong's clan was actually very influential in the northern Tribes, being one of the ruling clans, he couldn't forcefully put me under his control.

If he did that he would only be breaking his relation with the Northern Tribes and risk losing their support.

And once he had me in his circle, the rest of the plan went swimmingly." Jiao Fang explained in detail.

Hearing all this, Lin Mu was rather surprised, and a little impressed at the same time. Though he didn't show anything on his face, and kept a plain expression.

'At least I can tell that he isn't lying...' Lin Mu had gotten good enough to judge whether people were lying or not.

It was determined by a combination of things, including his spirit sense, to check the fine changes in their spirit Qi fluctuation and aura. These changes were so minor, that a cultivator might not even realized themselves.

One could fake their facial expression with great detail, but they couldn't do the same with their aura and spatial fluctuations.

"I see... that was a risky venture, for sure." Lin Mu replied after a few seconds.

"Indeed... though it was worth it. I got something that you will greatly like." Jiao Fang said with a smile.

"And what might be that?" Lin Mu asked in anticipation.

"Gu Yao's hideout. The true headquarters of the Gu Legion... I know where it is." Jiao Fang revealed.

Hearing this, Lin Mu's eyes went wide, and he was unable to maintain a plain expression. After all, this was information he had been looking for a long time and the entire alliance was spending a lot of manpower and resources in getting it.

They had been using merchant and goods routes to trace out the location. But despite all that, they were still unable to get it.

"Where is the hideout?" Lin Mu impatiently asked.

"It is far to the east... in the ocean. It's a secret plane located within the borders of the Echo Conch Kingdom!" Jiao Fang revealed.

Chapter 1108 Gu Yao's Method Of Hiding

The Echo Conch Kingdom and the First Sun kingdom were the only two island kingdoms of the Great Zhou Continent. And they were also the smallest kingdoms in the empire. They were even smaller than the Fenlong kingdom.

The first sun kingdom was located east of the Fenlong kingdom and was a trade ally of them. They two kingdoms were separated by the ocean for about three hundred kilometers. But the Echo conch kingdom was further south from there.

It was over a thousand kilometer away from there and was the smallest kingdom. It also had very little interaction with the rest of the kingdoms, outside of trade. It didn't have that many cultivators either, with the strongest cultivators among them being at the Nascent soul realm.

It was located over five hundred kilometers from the shore and thus had lack of certain resources. It prevented there from many cultivators being born. And since there was also not much land mass, it prevented them from growing crops too.

Their reliance was mostly on the ocean for food.

Even the cultivators depended on the ocean for their supplies of cultivation resources. After all, the aquatic beasts were an excellent source for that. But then there was the issue that fighting aquatic beasts was greatly disadvantageous for human cultivators.

Even if they could fly, there was a great chance they might lose the beast they were fighting once the beast dived deep into the water.

Despite all that, the kingdom had still survived all this time and the people living on it thrived.

Lin Mu never expected that it would be this place that Gu Yao would be hiding in all this time.

"Do you have proof of this? As far as I know, there have been no reports of suspicion about the Echo Conch kingdom. Plus, we would have known if there were any goods being routed there with Echo Conch kingdom being heavily dependent on exports." Lin Mu said after thinking for a bit.

There was a reason why the alliance had never suspected the two island nations about being the hideout for Gu Yao and the Gu Legion. Since they were tracking the trade routes using merchants, the two island kingdoms would have been detected right away.

After all they had a very specific route of importing to them.

The First Sun kingdom was literally located next to the Fenlong kingdom, thus any anomaly would have been found instantly. All the goods also went through them.

As for the Echo Conch kingdom, a part of their supplies came from the Fenlong kingdom as well. But a majority came from another kingdom that was located along the coast. It was the Silian Kingdom.

It was a medium sized kingdom and was under the influence of the Long Cloud sect. In fact, the Long cloud sect was located on the border of the Silian kingdom too.

With both kingdoms being in the vicinity of the Alliance powers, there was very little chance for them to be Gu Legion hideouts.

"I know about the alliance's attempt at investigating it all. And they are commendable. Unfortunately, Gu Yao took a different approach here. Instead of going his usual route of controlling everyone in the place he is hiding, he let everyone free." Jiao Fang explained.

"Then how does he get all his supplies there? We know for sure that he has been rerouting tons of supplies from the sects and kingdoms." Lin Mu asked.

"Spatial storage treasures. He's been making a fool of the local fishermen and getting them to transport jewelry that is in fact spatial storage tools. There has always been a smuggling syndicate in the island nations and along the coast, to escape the taxes, but since it is mostly composed of mortals and doesn't bring as many profits, the cultivators and sects don't get involved.

Gu Yao got a few of these smugglers acting as his henchmen. In their eyes he's simply another smuggler that smuggles jewelry and gold.

They simply bring the resources to the border of the Silian kingdom where they get transferred to the spatial storage treasure and then sealed to make them look like normal jewelry.

They get taken into the kingdom with ease and then passed over to the fishermen who pass it over to the smugglers in the sea." Jiao Fang explained in detail.

Hearing all this, Lin Mu was at a loss for words.

'No wonder we had blank trails after a certain point... he switched over to an unsecured way to transport the resources. We never had the commoners in our sights either, thus there was little to no chance of finding them.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

The elaborate net of transport and smuggling was very smart of Gu Yao to take advantage of. But Lin Mu knew that was not all. If Gu Yao was simply hiding in the Echo Conch kingdom in the open, he would have seen it before.

"The headquarters of the Gu legion aren't in the Echo Conch kingdom, are they? They are on a different plane?" Lin Mu stated.

"Senior Lin Mu certainly guessed right. Gu Yao had long since discovered an incomplete plane in the Echo Conch kingdom. Using the formation arrays of the Northern Tribes, he expanded it and also added several teleportation channels to it.

There is no physical entry to the plane either. One can only enter with a talisman and even those only allow single entries to the plane. Only Gu Yao himself can leave the place without them.

And there are also many escape paths set up for himself." Jiao Fang replied.

Hearing this, Lin Mu's ears perked up as it meant that a few of the plans he had made earlier would now work.

A smile appeared on his face, that made Jiao Fang shiver and he had a bad feeling.

"Seems like I need to head to the Echo Conch kingdom next... time to end it. This has gone on for too long." Lin Mu spoke with a hint of excitement.

"Wait! You're gonna head there directly?" Jiao Fang was stunned.

While he had seen Lin Mu's power here, he was still unsure of whether he'd be able to go against Gu Yao.

"Yes. I don't have any reason to wait after all." Lin Mu replied.

"That will be insane! Not to mention how will you even enter the plane? Even if you manage to get a teleportation talisman from someone, it won't be useful as they monitor each person that enters and exits. They can simply stop the talisman from working." Jiao Fang said.

"Who said I need a teleportation talisman? I have other ways to get in to the plane." Lin Mu said, not explaining any further.

He didn't think it was necessary to tell Jiao Fang about his abilities beyond what he already knew. Trusting him totally was out of options too, and right now Lin Mu had already gotten all the information that he had been lacking.

"Wait! B-but—" Before Jiao Fang could say anymore though, Lin Mu had disappeared.

Knowing Gu Yao's location made most other things irrelevant. Lin Mu now had confidence in his own strength. He had already gone against several Dao Treading realm experts and was experienced with them.

Besides, having others with him there might only put him on the disadvantage as Gu Yao could possibly play some scheme that could catch him off guard. Lin Mu would have to split his attention between his allies and his enemies at the same time.

For now, Little Shrubby might be the only one who could go along with Lin Mu and be an advantage to him rather than a burden. Little Shrubby's speed was also the main factor in deciding this.

Though before heading there, Lin Mu still decided to inform his allies. But it was not to ask them to join, but for them to stay ready for the chaos that would come after Gu Yao was gone.

'I doubt the Northern Tribes would take it kindly if Gu Yao falls. Right now they are only staying put because Gu Yao's schemes have been working. If he's not there, they will have no reason to hold back. Especially since they have three Immortal Ascension realm cultivators too...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

He looked in the distance and saw a red blur approaching.

"Are we done here?" Little Shrubby asked.

"Yes... we got more than we expected here." Lin Mu replied as he took out the communication jade slip.

"Where are we going now?" Little Shrubby asked.

"Now... we go and take care of Gu Yao." Lin Mu plainly said.

Little Shrubby's eyes glowed lightly upon hearing this. He knew very well that Gu Yao was his master's enemy and needed to be killed. And whoever was his master's enemy was his enemy, too.

"Come on, time to head east." Lin Mu stated.

"Okay~" Little Shrubby said before bursting into a sprint with Lin Mu on his back.

~BOOM~

A sonic boom was heard and alerted Jiao Fang, who had been looking for Lin Mu.

~Sigh~

"He's already gone... perhaps he really might be able to get Gu Yao to die." Jiao Fang muttered to himself.

He looked around and sighed once more before leaving the sect, his destination unknown.

While Lin Mu was heading to the Echo Conch Kingdom, he held the Jade Slip and contacted Jing Luo. He didn't know if the man had left the ancestral grounds yet, but there was a great chance he had.

"LIN MU!? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?" Jing Luo shouted through the jade slip.

Chapter 1109 The Top Sects Come Around

Lin Mu's disappearance without a word was certainly met with unease in the alliance. But since his actions were rather open, they could somewhat guess what was happening. Additionally, Jing Luo's return from the ancestral lands had helped the alliance know what Lin Mu was doing.

After all, many of the things that Lin Mu did were known by Jing Luo as it was among the many plans they had discussed. Because of this, the alliance could pick up from the devastation that Lin Mu left behind and work upon it.

Then the arrival of the disciples from the fallen sects also let the alliance know quite a lot. The disciples of the Ripple Mist sect were questioned in detail about all that had happened. And not only this, but it was all recorded and documented.

This helped to assuage the Top three sects and make them calm down. Originally they had been greatly upset with the fall of the sects. After all, if one top sect could fall with the offense of just a single person, it would set a bad precedent in the eyes of the people.

The top sects were unshakable powers in the eyes of the commoners and cultivators alike. Even the kingdoms weren't said to be as stable as the top sects and perhaps only the empire could stand on the same level.

But now all of that had been flipped on its head. The people saw the reality of it all and understood they weren't the sovereigns they pretended to be. Just like the commoners who could be killed at any time, these sects now had something to be afraid of.

And when the truth of the Gu Legion and Gu Yao was fully revealed to the top sects, they were left red faced. They had been fooled for a long time and now needed to make up the face that they had lost.

The Long cloud alliance had been working on all this with the help of Jing Luo while Lin Mu soloed the Gu Legion and the Zither Wind alliance.

Still, the alliance had a lot that they wanted to talk to Lin Mu about. Even if they knew that there was little chance of Lin Mu getting in trouble, him not communicating with them left them nervous.

And now finally, he had opened the line of communication again.

Jing Luo had been working at this moment and was left frozen upon feeling the jade slip hum. It was a jade slip exclusively reserved for Lin Mu, and no one else would contact him on it.

"LIN MU?! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?" Jing Luo shouted.

"I'm on my way to the Echo Conch kingdom." Lin Mu replied.

"The Echo Conch Kingdom? Why?" Jing Luo was confused.

"I'll keep it short. I eradicated the Zither Wind sect and found Jiao Fang there. He gave me the information about where the Gu Legion's headquarters is hidden and how Gu Yao had been hiding." Lin Mu quickly spoke.

"Huh? WAIT! You're heading there alone?" Jing Luo hurriedly asked.

He wasn't shocked that the Zither Wind sect was gone, but that Lin Mu was now going against Gu Yao on his own. Even if the Top sects were powerful, by now they knew Gu Yao was in an entirely different league of his own.

Even if he might not be that strong on his own, he had many other ways to harm someone. There was no saying what he had hidden in his sleeve.

"I'm going with Little Shrubby." Lin Mu replied.

"You can't do that! Wait for us! The entire alliance will come for this! It's too dangerous!" Jing Luo stated.

"No, the way I'm going to do things, others being there will only put them in danger. Besides, the Gu legion's headquarters is in a separate plane just like we talked before. And the way to enter it is only using talismans.

I can open a rift and enter with little Shrubby, but bringing more people won't be a viable option. Not to mention, there is always a danger of the rifts going wrong." Lin Mu explained.

"Still... this is..." Jing Luo tried to convince Lin Mu.

"Hang on, I'm contacting you to tell you something else. I want you to prepare the alliance for the Northern Tribes. If my hunch is right, they won't sit still once Gu Yao is gone. Get everyone on board and prepare for an offense from their end." Lin Mu stated.

Jing Luo gritted his teeth and took a deep breath. He knew Lin Mu well enough to trust his judgment.

"Fine... if you say so. We'll do that." Jing Luo replied.

Lin Mu was about to stop the link when Jing Luo spoke once more.

"The top sects are now willing to listen to us." Jing Luo stated.

"Oh? They finally are?" Lin Mu asked.

"Yes... though it's mostly to save their own face. They are not really fine with you, though. No matter what we'd tell them, they would still take your act of eradicating the three sects as a great crime.

There are talks of giving you a death penalty too." Jing Luo said, a hint of anger in his voice.

"Hah! They can try." Lin Mu couldn't help but chuckle.

"It will never come to that. Grandfather will leave the ancestral lands soon. We can freely communicate with them now. Once grandfather is out, the top three will have to face justice.

Forget about targeting you. They will first have to see if they can even save the skin on their backs!" Jing Luo said with excitement.

"Mm... I'll look forward to that. But for now... I need to leave. The faster I reach there, the greater the chance of me catching Gu Yao off guard. I doubt they know about the Zither Wind sect's falling yet.

Once they know that, they will probably try to do something else to save themselves. It's best they don't leave the place or we'll have to run after them again." Lin Mu stated.

Chapter 1110 Heading To The Echo Conch Kingdom

Having finished his conversation with Jing Luo, Lin Mu felt a bit relieved.

'Seems like things went well even without me. Targeting the sect's directly was the right choice.' Lin Mu thought to himself.

There was another thing that Lin Mu had recently been a little worried about.

It was about what would happen once he was not in the Xiaofan world. It was a guaranteed fact that he would leave it one day, and while it might not be soon, it would still happen.

And he couldn't help but feel anxious about things going to hell once he was gone.

He didn't know if it was the duty given to him by the world, or his links with the people he had come to take as allies that made him feel like that.

"If you want to leave the world without any regrets, simply remove all that could threaten the people you care for here. And that is exactly what you are going to do here, aren't you?" Xukong spoke after seeing Lin Mu lost in his thoughts.

"Hmm... you are right, senior. It just means I have to be swift in dealing with everything." Lin Mu replied as a determined expression appeared on his face.

Having made up his mind, Lin Mu opened the portal to the Kong Plane and took Little Shrubby along with him.

~shua~

When he reappeared, he was in the cave where all the teleportation gates were set up.

"The closest teleportation gate to the Echo Conch kingdom would be the Fenlong kingdom. We'll have to fly to the Echo Conch kingdom from there." Lin Mu spoke to Little Shrubby, who simply nodded.

~shua~

The two of them walked into the Fenlong kingdom's teleportation gate and appeared in the palace of the Fenlong kingdom.

The guards there were stunned upon seeing Lin Mu, but before they could say anything, Lin Mu disappeared along with Little Shrubby, only leaving behind a red blur and a gust of wind that pushed the guards back.

"Huh? That aura..." Miss Fen who had been working, felt a familiar aura and immediately looked outside.

"It really is him... but where is he going?" she could see a red blur disappearing over the horizon. "He's going towards the ocean? But why? There's nothing there..."

It was only after she got a report from the alliance about their next course of action did she learn why.

'So the day has finally come... and Lin Mu will be doing it alone too... I don't know if this is brave or foolish...' Miss Fen thought to herself as a complex expression appeared on her face.

She looked in the direction where Lin Mu had disappeared and sighed.

"If it's you, then it should not be foolish..." she muttered before returning to the study.

She had a lot of things to do now and tons of orders to give.

Soon, the entire Fenlong kingdom would be mobilized and the commoners would get to see the true power that had been hidden for a long time now.

This was something that would happen all over the empire across multiple kingdoms.

And while it happened, the imperial court in the capital of the Great Zhou kingdom would be running around like headless chickens, trying to make sense of why an army bigger than the entire empire's had suddenly been mobilized.

Thankfully for them, envoys from the alliance would bring the decree informing them of an impending invasion from the northern tribes.

All this had happened due to the actions of Lin Mu, but he didn't need to bother with this decision as much. He had set the stage for the others and if he still had to do everything, then these old experts who had lived for hundreds and thousands of years would have been the greatest fools the world had ever seen.

~WOONG~

The sound of waves could be heard while Lin Mu and Little Shrubby flew over the ocean. They were heading south from the Fenlong kingdom and could see hundreds of ships and boats below them.

These ships and boats went about their day, unaware of Lin Mu and Little Shrubby that flew past their heads.

"We should reach the Echo Conch kingdom in a short while, I think." Lin Mu muttered as he checked the map in his mind.

He had never been to the Echo Conch kingdom and was depending on the old maps he read, along with his spirit sense. He could follow the ships in the water and roughly tell what direction to fly towards.

After all, navigating in the ocean wasn't really an easy thing. On land, one could use various markers to guide one's path. But in the sea or ocean, other than a few islands, there was basically nothing.

And since it was daytime, there were no stars to use as a guide either. Though it would have been useless for Lin Mu either way, since he didn't know how to use stars for charting a route anyway.

About an hour later, Lin Mu finally sensed land with his spirit sense.

"That should be the Echo Conch kingdom." Lin Mu said upon witnessing small dots in the distance.

The dots expanded in size as they got closer and soon the dots turned into more dots, with them being the hundreds of ships and boats that were sailing around the Echo Conch kingdom.

A couple more minutes later, Lin Mu finally saw the entirety of the Echo Conch kingdom. It was truly small in Lin Mu's eyes as he could see both ends of the kingdom in a single glance.

"So this is the smallest Kingdom of the empires... and also where the worst power of the empire has been hiding all this time." Lin Mu muttered with a serious expression.

"Let's head up." Lin Mu said to Little Shrubby.

They moved high up into the clouds and Lin Mu used his spirit sense to first observe everything in detail. He saw the people, the cultivators and everything that was on the kingdom's land.